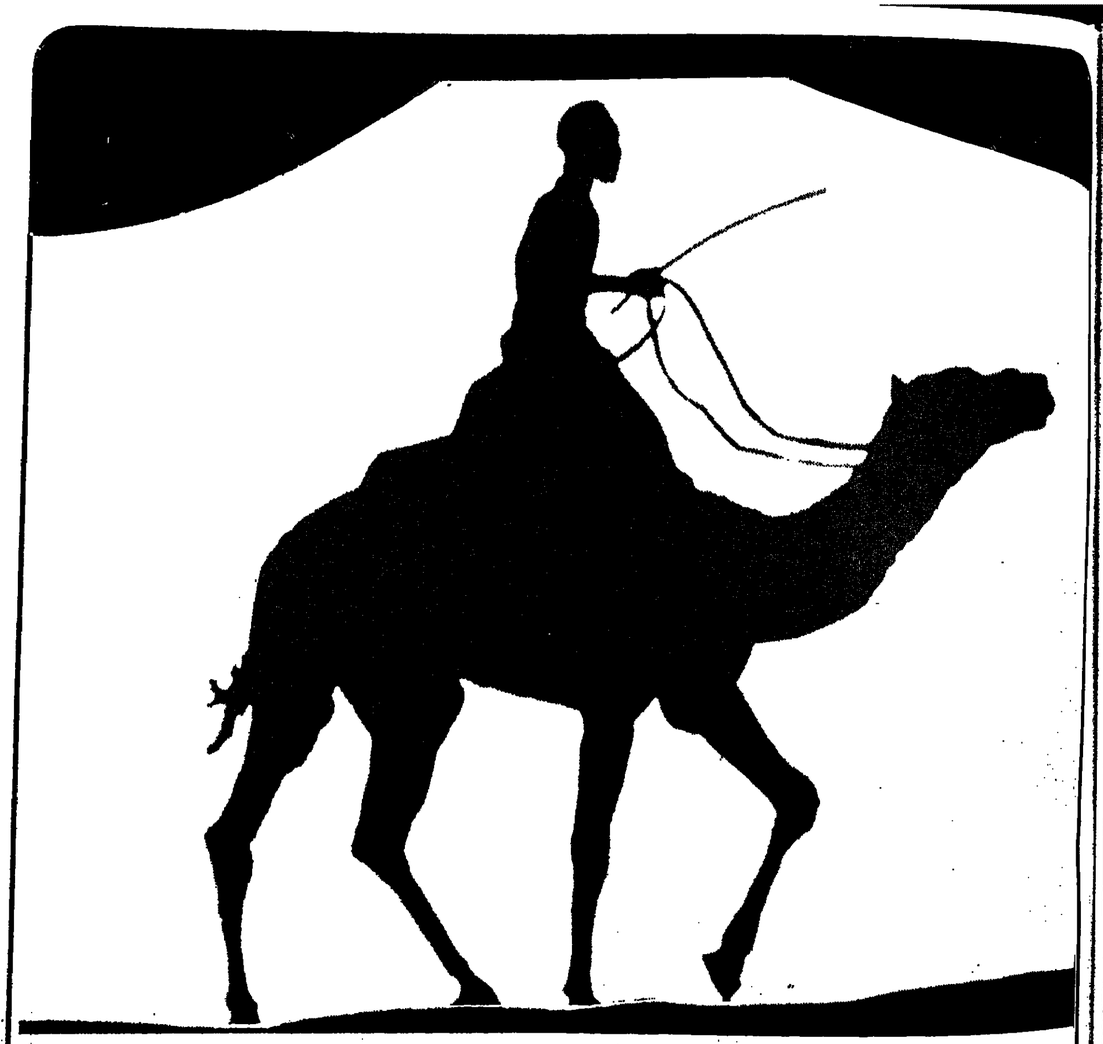

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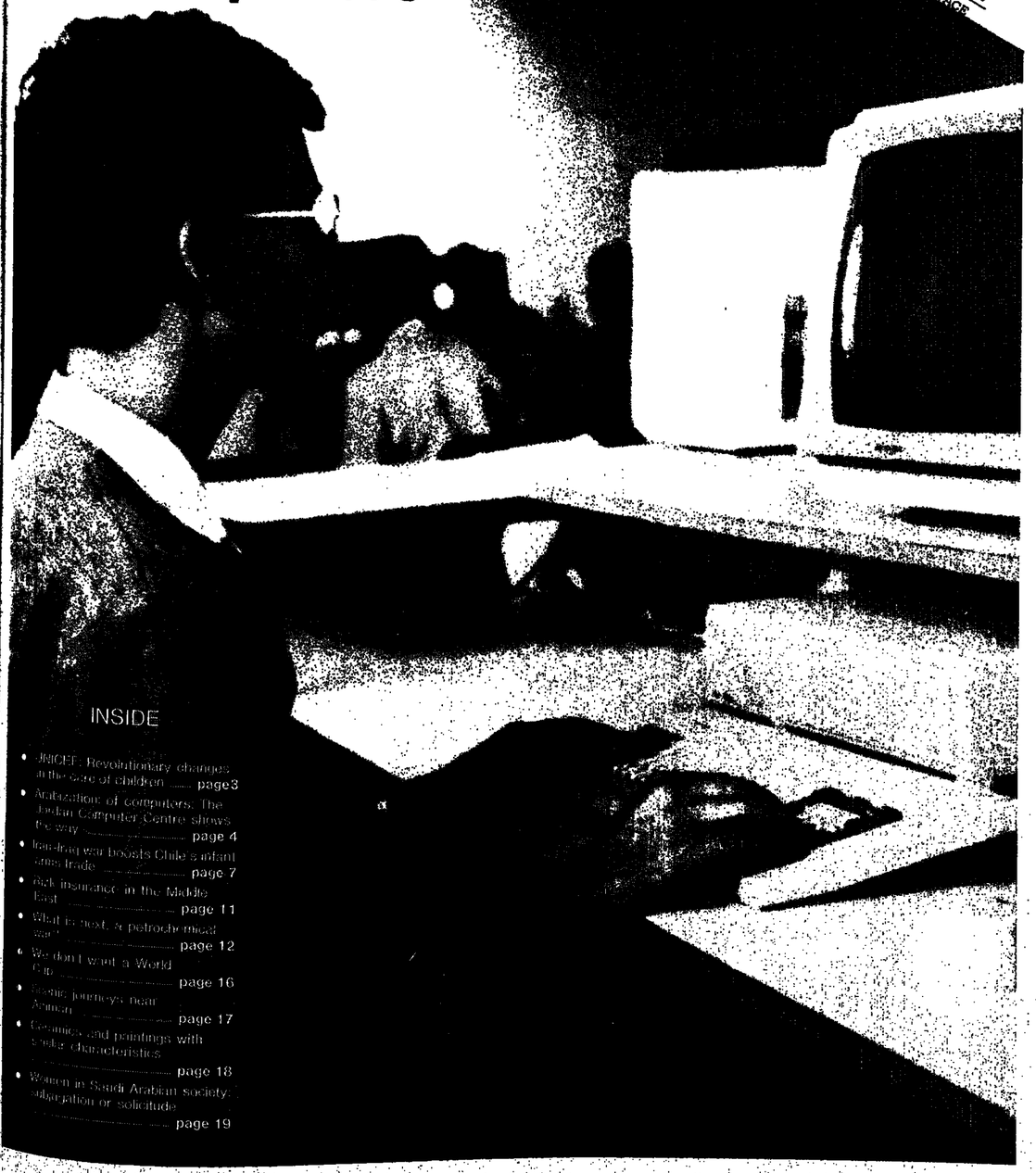
Children and Computers

INSIDE WorldPaper THE BUSINESS OF SPACE



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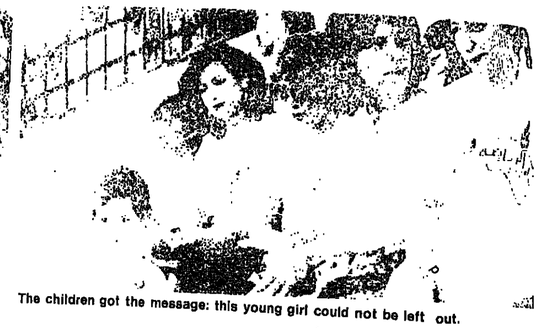
هكذا من الأصل

Sport Aid : Jordan's contribution in pictures

Mr Richard Reid (in goggles) of UNICEF sluga it out withother runners



The children got the message: this young girl could not be left out.

The academic community was not left out. Mr Hamadan, Dean of the Faculty of Science in Jordan Varsity puffs it out.

The youth of Jordan were also among 600-700 participants.

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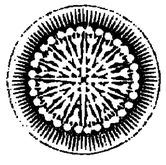

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UNICEF: A revolutionary change in the care of children

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

ALMOST A MILLION children saved from death from measles, whooping cough and tetanus in 1985, another half million saved from death from diarrhoel dehydration and even more young lives are expected to be saved in 1986 and the years to come.

In a generally gloomy world scene, the prospects for at least some of the Third World's children are actually measurably better in the 80's than at any time in the past 40 years. But why is it happening now? In an interview with The Star this week the new United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director Richard Reid discussed the factors which are contributed to the remarkable change.

He says a number of important technical advances have radically altered our approach to both the treatment and the prevention of some of the major child killers. The simple, but spectacular Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORI) ranks highly, though Mr Reid says it took time and to make its mark.

Throughout the 1950's and 60's the standard treatment for diarrhoel diseases, including cholera which is the worst of them, was intravenous rehydration. The method works but it is expensive and requires hospital treatment to reach only about 5-8 per cent of people in developing countries have access.

When research workers at the International Diarrhoel Disease Research Bureau in Bangladesh developed an oral rehydration technique, it was found to be 25 times faster, more efficient and infinitely cheaper than the old technique but it was not popular with doctors and was thus slow to find acceptance. Then came the Pakistan civil war in 1970 and tens of thousands of refugees streamed into India and were at severe risk from cholera. The new oral rehydration technique underwent its real great field trial in conditions where hospital treatment was unthinkable.

The simple solution of eight teaspoons of sugar and one of salt in one litre of water, administered by the spoonful throughout the sickness proved its value in preventing the dehydration that is the real killer with diarrhoel disease. Since then, the solution has been refined and is now available in packets costing only a few cents. Mr Reid says another major breakthrough came with the development of a simple, portable cold box that could ensure that vaccines could be kept at the correct temperature without the need for expensive and often unreliable, refrigeration.

The communications revolution then began to play its part. Even the poorest countries now have the vital channels of radio, television and newspapers that can let their populations know what ORT, vaccination, better nutrition etc can do to ensure that their children stay alive and stay healthy, and can help to mobilize nationwide support for health campaigns. But it is clear that technological change is only one part of the equation and there has also been a profound change in attitudes in recent years to the development process in general and to child survival in particular and in this UNICEF has played a major role.

Mr Richard Reid

The agency was established 40 years ago as an emergency organization to help the children of post World War Two Europe. As their condition improved, it was transformed into an agency dedicated to improve the lives of the children of the Third World. UNICEF carried out many programmes over the next 30 years but did not generally achieve a very high profile and some of the programmes it supported, such as mass vaccination in the 70's, were not successful and tended to be discredited.

The past few years have seen a fundamental change in UNICEF's approach both to its work and to the way it is presented. The change has been based on the realization, first that the existing approach to the problems of underdevelopment simply was not working and second that in a time of economic recessions, programmes had to achieve maximum effect for the money spent.

The UNICEF emphasis on simple, inexpensive, but highly effective, measures such as innoculation, the use of ORT, growth monitoring, breast feeding is the result. The organization has geared its own publicity to carry a message that combines in a particularly effective way.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for governments to justify their own inaction when faced with the information that a child can be immunized against the main killer diseases for $5 and that a packet of ORT solution costing a mere six cents can actually save a life. Mr Reid points out that more governments are also beginning to realize that efforts to improve the state of their children's health bring many benefits, not the least of which is the goodwill of their own populations. Good preventive care also saves a lot of money otherwise spent by families in time.

The hopeful news, must, however, be balanced against the fact that even now some governments in the developing world have not committed themselves to the child survival revolution and around 15 million infants and children are still dying every year. UNICEF and other agencies have an important role to play in making governments and their citizens aware that this situation is simply not acceptable and that improvements are well within their reach.

The Secretary-General of the UN has actually written directly to the heads of the UN's member states drawing their attention to the improved vaccine technologies and asking for their personal support in achieving the goal of immunization for all the world's children by the year 1990. UNICEF, in co-operation with the United Nations Population Division has developed a new and considerably improved index of infant and child mortality. Mr Reid says some governments are genuinely shocked when confronted with accurate statistics on their country's infant and child mortality rate especially when an apparently less developed neighbouring country is sure to have a lower rate.

UNICEF also sends observers to watch mass innoculation programmes, in action. When delegations from China, Indonesia, Syria, Pakistan, Egypt and elsewhere watched Turkey's highly successful programme in 1985 they went home impressed and Syria, as just one example, is now preparing for its own major campaign to start in September this year. Mr Reid is well aware that the present campaigns are not a substitute for the fundamental problems of poverty which are the root causes of high infant and child mortality. But he says he is not afraid that governments will use success in vaccination programmes, ORT promotion etc as an excuse to tackle the basic problems.

He believes that looked at realistically, the major problems of inadequate incomes, poor housing and lack of such facilities as clean water and proper waste disposal, are not going to be solved quickly so UNICEF must do what it can, and encourage governments to act, in areas where health improvement is a real possibility even in poor conditions. He is heartened by the changes underway in Nigeria where he was stationed prior to his appointment to Jordan. Since 1980 UNICEF has supported a programme to improve drinking water and sanitation for all rural areas of Nigeria, for which the government is now taking responsibility. The country, Mr Reid now has best immunization programme in Africa, aided considerably by the use of cold boxes which ensure that vaccinations can reach the most isolated areas. The establishment of temporary vaccination posts in market places, schools, mosques and churches and the enlistment of community leaders such as traditional chiefs, religious leaders and schoolteachers to 'spread the message' has also helped to make vaccination programmes successful.

"The mother is the highest level health worker — not in training or in qualifications but in time and love, in the special knowledge of her own children, in the breadth of integrated services she provides, and in the permanent presence she brings to her child's life."

The government of Nigeria has now taken a decision to assign six per cent of its budget to health up from the present figure of 1.7 per cent above even the WHO recommended figure of 5 per cent of budget. All this is taking place in a country whose national income has declined drastically with the fall in the price of oil. And in Nigeria, and in all countries, as governments show their people that they can offer proper medical services, their expectations will rise and they will come to expect health care as a right for all not a privilege for the few.

Simple techniques such as ORT also have the potential to contribute to a profound change in people's own perceptions of themselves. Every woman who administers ORT and sees her child become well has taken the first step towards a greater control of her own life and that of her children. And once she begins to realize just what she can do....

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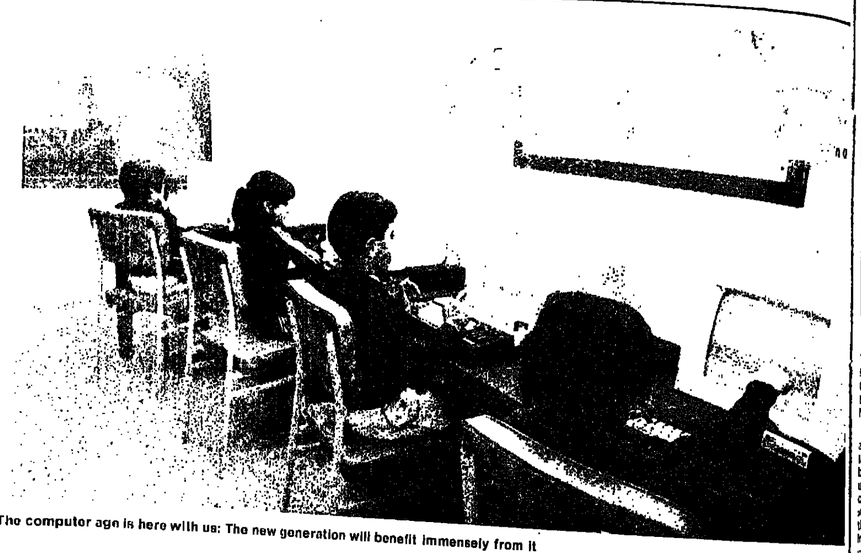


The computer age is here with us: The new generation will benefit immensely from it

Arabization of computers:

How it facilitates learning procedures for children

By Mary Phillips
Special to The Star

COMPUTERS ARE now being introduced into Jordanian schools at a rapid pace. But what kind of computers and software are used? In the commercial sector, the "Arabization" of computers in wordprocessing and accounting systems is already well developed, but what about education?

The few problems they meet tend to come from the teachers, who sometimes show an inbuilt mistrust for the computer, arising either from a fear that it will take their jobs, or from a conviction that they will never be able to understand how it works.

The Jordan Computer Centre has supplied computers to 36 schools in the Kingdom (not just in Amman but in other towns including Irbid, Mafraq, Marka and Aqaba), in a highly successful package. The system used is MSX Sakher, and it includes a computer which functions in Arabic, and a series of Arabic educational software developed in Kuwait by Mircrosoft and ALALAMIAH. ALALAMIAH are committed to 'bridging the computational gap' between the industrial and developing countries, and to promoting computer literacy in the Arab world. They are working on the 'Arabization' of computer operating sytems and peripherals', promoting Arabic programmes and programming languages, and building up software for education and entertainment.

The Arabic software caters for a wide range of ages — from children aged four to second year university students. Besides being in the Arabic language, it has a distinctly Arab cultural flavour — a programme which teaches Islamic calligraphy is called 'Boulitta', a course of human biology programmes is called 'Ibn Sina', and so on. Along with subjects such as mathematics, science, English and music, there are religious programmes, such as 'A Trip to Makka.' So far, most of it comes under the heading of "edutainment", a new jargon word for educational programmes that are also fun. However, in order to meet the demands of the Jordanian Ministry of Education syllabus more closely, the Centre is planning to produce its own Jordanian curriculum-based software in September this year.

The Arabic software caters for a wide range of ages — from children aged four to second year university students. Besides being in the Arabic language it has a distinctly Arab cultural flavour.

Mr Hazem Milhem, the manager of the Centre, feels that they have met with great success in introducing the computer to Jordanian schoolchildren, who usually take to it with no inhibitions or preconceptions. The few problems they meet tend to come from the teachers, who sometimes show an inbuilt mistrust for the computer, arising either from a fear that it will take their jobs, or from a conviction that they will never be able to understand how it works. However, part of the 'package' offered by the Centre includes orientation and training courses for teachers.

The Centre will be running courses on its premises, starting a June, to teach Logo and Basic to adults and children of 8 years and above. They also have an unofficial 'club' on Thursdays where computer enthusiasts can meet and swap programmes and ideas.

Computer education: The Shoman Foundation shows the way

By Sandy Rose
Special to The Star

IT IS estimated that there are about 900,000 students in Jordan attending 3,000 schools and nurseries. With approximately 250 micro computers in place, mostly in private schools, it is clear that Jordan has a long way to go in providing her school-children with computer contact. Whatever one's ideas as to the role computers can play in education, there is no doubt that they will be there in the classrooms of the future.

Already much is being done in Jordan to provide for this future: apparently the Ministry of Education took delivery in April of 90 MSX Sakhr's for 28 schools. For the overall future, according to unofficial figures, Jordan is to spend JD 4 million on computers in education in the next five year plan.

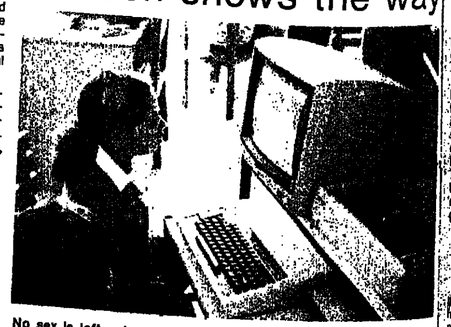
Even so, ensuring that the present generation of schoolchildren grow up with some degree of computer-literacy is an urgent task, and one which the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation is doing much to assist. At its information centre in Shmeisani, it has devoted the fifth floor to computers for the use of members of the public who join the Shoman Library. Members must be 15 years old or more and, for a JD 5 deposit, which is refundable, they have access to the library and all its facilities, including the computers. The 12 machines there can be booked for up to two hours maximum during library hours.

It is interesting to note that the younger visitors to the centre have no in-built barriers when it comes to confronting computers, unlike the older generation who are often mystified, even afraid, of computers and the threat they may pose to them. These children spend most of their time playing computer games, games which often occupy them for the first two to three months. Thereafter, many of them move on to more serious computer-programming in which they may be assisted by a member of the centre's staff who is available at all times to help budding programmers.

Clearly computers cannot replace a child's delight in discovering nature and the real world but with the neutrality and infinite patience of computers they have some advantages, which can be put to good use in education. The logo language developed by Simon Papert, for example, is not so much a computer language as an environment created for children in which they can arrive at certain concepts. Drill and practice in knowledge acquired can be given by computers.

Two-thirds of the programmes available to the children are educational in content, focussing on subjects like English, Arabic, mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology. The rest are quizzes and games. Some university and college students are using the centre's machines to write computer programmes, and one is moving into the sphere of artificial intelligence.

The centre aims to teach its visitors firstly how to use a computer and then to use this knowledge in computer-aided learning. All languages can be taught through the computer, as can mathematics and the humanities. Of course, what can be achieved by the computer in education has been exaggerated and much of the educational software or "course-ware" (in the computer jargon) is of a poor quality, being nothing more than "electronic page-turning." Enormous potential is, nonetheless, there and particularly in programmes which involve simulation of real-life experience; chemical experiments can be carried out without the dangers of explosions which can occur in the laboratory.



No sex is left out: Jordanian curriculum based software is soon to be introduced

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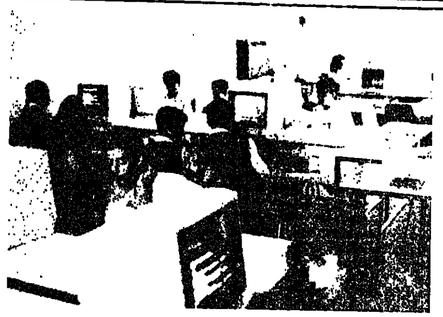
The Shoman Foundation has only been open three months but figures for April indicate that so far 1,554 people have used the computer centre during that time, which makes an average of 62 people using the computers each day. This gives an indication of the interest and demand there is among the people of Amman, particularly among the young, for computer education, an interest which the Foundation is doing much to satisfy and foster.

'We want to fit computers into a broader context of our students. It is the technological revolution of which they are a part that is the important thing. It's no use just knowing which buttons to press' — David Phillips



Computer could make learning easier for our children

Computer can be adapted for use in Arabic

Computer technology is the 'inthing' at the International Baccalaureat-School

Special To The Star

THE INTERNATIONAL Baccalaureate School (IBS) launched its Computer Department in January this year, using BBC B+ and RM Nimbus machines.

In the Junior School, up to Grade 6, the children are not being taught computer studies as such, but three computers are being used to augment and illustrate current programmes, particularly in mathematics and English, where they are proving highly successful. In the next academic year, there will be more machines, including one for the use of kindergarten children. BBC computers can be adapted for use in Arabic, and the School plans to develop its own Arabic software soon.

In Grade 7 and above, computer studies have begun in earnest. Students start by learning about the computer itself; it then makes sense to start on programming. Computer languages like Forth and simple assembly language permit this programming to be linked to the students' knowledge of the computer's internal workings. Because of the current favour which structured programming enjoys, younger students are taught Logo, and Pascal. Basic is taught to higher grades. The Department also gives due consideration to the newer languages such as Prolog, because of the increasing importance of artificial intelligence.

The Senior School has a well-equipped computer room containing both BBC and RM Nimbus machines, and the subject has so far been greeted with tremendous enthusiasm. But, though it is early days, the head of the School's Computer Department, Mr. Tony Berkeley, is determined that this enthusiasm will be properly channelled into a desire for more than superficial understanding of computers.

"The subject has tremendous novelty appeal, and most of my students are very keen to learn. But I am not sure they understand yet what learning is," he says. "There is a vast difference between playing a computer game and devising the programme for it, or even just understanding how it has been devised. One of the problems is that here, as in so many countries, educational tradition is based on "answers" rather than on the process of discovering those answers. My maxim is that the answers themselves are not as important as the methods of finding them, and there is usually more than one way of solving a problem. Students must be capable of justifying their answers to a problem. For an adult, it's different: He can go out and buy a computer as he would any other tool, and learn how to use it for his own purposes; he doesn't necessarily need to understand it. But if we are educating for the future, we must ensure fundamental understanding."

In order to ensure this fundamental understanding, the IBS is introducing five new courses in September this year. First of all, there will be a two-year foundation course for all students in grades 7 and 8, called "Technology and New Technology." The course will emphasize three main areas: Computer science, electronics and microelectronics, and mechanisms and structures. At least half the time will be spent on practical work, with plenty of opportunity for project work also. The course aims to familiarize students with the new technologies, and to develop their practical and problem-solving skills.

In grade 9, four new GCE 'O' level subjects will be offered: Design Technology, Graphical Communication, Control Technology and Computer Studies. These courses will be taught in new, purpose- built facilities which include two new computer rooms, an electronics and technology laboratory, and a technical drawing office.

The school principal, Mr David Phillips, says: "We want to fit computers into a broader context for our students. It's the technological revolution of which they are a part that is the important thing. It's no use just knowing which buttons to press."

Under constant supervision, the desire for more understanding of computer could be enhanced

Editor's note: There was a mistake in some of the paragraphs in the article 'The International status of the Holy See and Vatican' by Pascal Karmy published in last week's Jerusalem Star. This was due to pasting problems. We now publish the correct form of the said paragraphs.

The status of the Vatican City

Further, there can be no doubt that the Lateran Treaty of 1929 had the character of an international one since its purpose was to regulate and clarify the international status of the Holy See and the Vatican City, matters which are clearly within the sphere of international law as prescribed in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969.

From the functional point of view, however, the Vatican City is proximate to a state if not a state in the full meaning of that term. Other jurists deny the statehood of the Vatican City on the grounds of its small territory (about 44 hectares) its lack of population apart from the resident functionaries who automatically regain their original nationality on the termination of their employment, and the absence of a political power. However, that may be, the Vatican City is widely recognized as a state with treaty-making capacity.

The International status of the Holy See

Both the Holy See and the State of the Vatican enjoy international personality, i.e. both are subjects of international law. But the personality of the Holy See is distinct from that of the Vatican City. The former is a non-territorial institution and the latter is a state. According to Graham in his book "Vatican Diplomacy: A study of Church and State on the International Plane," "the Papacy as a religious organ is a subject of international law and capable of international rights and duties. The fact that the Holy See is a non-territorial institution is no longer regarded as denying it international personality. It can enter into legally binding conventions known as concordats. In the world of diplomacy, the Pope enjoys the rights of active and passive legation. He can send and receive representatives who are public ministers in the sense of international law." (quoted in Harris' Cases and Materials on International Law at page 143). However, Ian Brownlie notes at page 68 of his book "Principles of Public International Law" that "The problem of personality divorced from territorial base is difficult to isolate because of the interaction of the Vatican City, the Holy See, and the Roman Catholic Church."

The Holy See is not a member of the United Nations but has an observer there. He is a member of the UN High Commissioner for the Refugees, has an observer at the UNESCO, the FAO and WHO and in other UN specialized agencies. The Holy See is a party of the IAEA, participated in the conferences on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 in Vienna, on the Maritime Laws of Brussels in 1962 and on the Law of the Seas in Geneva in 1958. In conjuction with UNRWA, the Holy See assists the Palestine refugees in kind and in services under the umbrella of the Apostolic Mission. It sponsors or contributes to thousands of charitable, educational, scientific and cultural institutions all over the world. The Caritas Internationalis for example has its headquarters in the Vatican.

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Sudan's problems are not insurmountable

By Ya'coub Fahd

SUDAN'S PEACEFUL and smooth transfer from military rule to an elected civilian administration has been greeted with applause tempered with a foreboding by people all over the Arab world. For it was the first time in many decades that military leaders who seized power by force and arms have given in to the demands of the people, run a free democratic election and conceded power to parties which have won a majority in Parliament.

In Third World countries in general, and in the Arab world in particular, people are used to seeing army officers holding on to power and often refuse to recognize the need for a democratic take-over under a variety of pretexts and excuses.

Last Thursday, Sadiq Al-Mahdi leader of the Umma Party which won the largest number of seats in the newly elected parliament, announced his multi-party civilian government. Ahmad Al-Mirighani, a veteran politician, was earlier elected by parliament to head the Supreme Council, a post equivalent to that of a president.

With a civilian government now installed in Khartoum, two decades of military rule in the Sudan has at last come to an end. General Abdel Rahman Suwarredahab, leader of the transitional Military Council, fulfilled the pledges he made to the Sudanese people when he came to power nearly a year ago after toppling Jaafar Numeiri.

Numeiri's regime which lasted over 17 years, caused widespread troubles including a severe famine and a civil war in the South.

Sudan's new civilian leaders, however, have assumed unenviable jobs. They have to cope with the challenges posed by an economy in tatters and a three-year civil war that shows no sign of ever abating.

The new Prime Minister has not yet spelled out how he plans to tackle the country's worsening economic problems. His Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), who are to share power in a broadly based government, have so far drawn up a working paper which speaks merely of the need to improve the lot of Sudan's impoverished majority through solutions based on scientific studies. The paper gives no clues as to how this formidable task can be accomplished.

Sudan's major worry is an estimated $10 billion in foreign debt which it has been unable to service. It has been unable to meet its debt obligations with most of its creditors, including the IMF, which has frozen further loans.

Western economic experts say no rescheduling of Sudan's debts can be expected in the near future. Khartoum can no longer count on the United States for pressing the creditors into acceptance of debts servicing since Washington itself has suspended aid to Sudan because of its growing ties with Libya. The only slim alternative for Mahdi is to seek help from oil-rich Arab states. But with the oil producers themselves facing problems as a result of low oil production and reduced prices, such help is likely to be only in the form of free oil and food.

Sudan's economic crisis has been aggravated by a severe drought which hit many parts of the country, causing a widespread famine. The food shortage, which killed tens of thousands of people, is said to have eased a little. But the prospects of an economic recovery still looks very bleak.

A foreign diplomat in Khartoum noted that Mahdi will not rejoice for long over his victory in the election and the return to democratic rule. He said in a country that is on the brink of bankruptcy, it is certain that some politicians prefer to be in the opposition. If no tangible results materialize soon, the Prime Minister could become a public enemy number one.

Umma Party leaders blame the regime of ousted President Jaafar Numeiri for the many ills which have hit Sudan in the past few years. The new rulers hope that Egypt will eventually agree to extradite Numeiri so that he could be put on trial in Khartoum on charges of corruption, abuse of power and for his role in the transfer of Falasha Jews into Israel.

Numeiri's Vice-President Omar Al-Tayb has already been sentenced to life imprisonment on similar charges.

Egypt's continued refusal to hand Numeiri over to be Khartoum authorities could further sour relations between the two neighbouring countries. Mahdi said on 23 April that Egypt was making a sad mistake by continuing to give Numeiri asylum.

"Numeiri is not a political exile. He is a political criminal. It will be the concern of the Sudanese people and its representatives, in my opinion, to demand his extradition in order to try him here," Mahdi said in a recently published press interview.

Mr Sadiq Al-Mahdi

Many Sudanese concede that Numeiri was largely responsible for the countries problems. But some of them warn against turning his case into a daily controversy while neglecting the need for a speedy action to alleviate the economic distress. Two legacies of Numeiri's rule are the Sharia "Islamic law" which was introduced in 1983, and a three year-old civil war in the mainly Christian and pagan South of Sudan.

Numeiri introduced Islamic law probably to win the support of religious groups for his unpopular regime. There is a census that his motives did not stem from dedication to Islam but rather from a desire to use the law in liquidating his political foes. Top Sudanese Islamic leaders opposed the mover, accusing the regime of introducing a distorted form of Sharia for political manipulation.

Mahdi has spoken of moderating the implementation of Sharia to safeguard the civil rights of the religious minorities. His partners in the national unity government, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), have taken a vague stand on the Sharia issue. The DUP is said to be split between members who support the continued implementation of Islamic law and those who want the implementation to be modified.

This issue is thus likely to continue unresolved for a considerable period, hampering efforts to tackle Sudan's other more persistent problems.

The other major challenge which threatens the country's national unity and territorial integrity is the rebellion in the south led by John Garang. The rebels, which have been waging an extremely costly war against the central government in Khartoum for the past three years, call themselves the People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The rebels have turned down repeated reconciliation offers made by Sadeq Al-Mahdi and his military predecessors. Their refusal to lay down arms or engage in a constructive dialogue with the authorities in Khartoum has placed serious obstacles before the new government's efforts to carry out the badly-needed economic and social reforms.

After extensive talks in Addis Ababa between rebel leaders and representatives of the Umma Party last month, the Southern insurgents said they "would not recognize or take part in the new government being formed as a result of the partial election which was conducted by the Transitional Military Council."

Mahdi seemed to have been provoked by the SPLA's adamant determination to continue the fighting. In a thinly-veiled warning to Garang and his men, Mahdi said. There are new things which we will have to consider carefully in regard to the rebels' position. "We will not tolerate the continuation of the present condition of the army, whose boosting will be given to top priority" said Mahdi in remarks published 23 April by the semi-official Sudanese daily Al- Ayam newspaper.

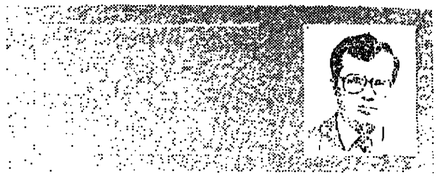
Mahdi said, however, that he planned to continue to seek a peaceful solution to the rebellion in the South. The setting up of a "Ministry of Peace" has reinforced Mahdi's peaceful intention. The rebels were said to have been receiving aid from Libya when relations between Tripoli and Numeiri-ruled Khartoum were strained. The other aid-suppliers are reported to be Ethiopia and the Vatican.

Now that relations between Sudan's new rulers and Colonel Moammer Qadhafi have improved, Tripoli must have stopped aiding the rebels. Ethiopia remains the main source that provides the rebels with aid. It is also suspected that the United States, angered by Khartoum's overtures towards Libya could help the rebels as means of pressing the Sudanese government into abandoning its efforts to set up close relations with Tripoli.

There is a general agreement that once outside aid to the rebels is cut, the insurgents will not be able to maintain their rebellion. Hence the main task of the new rulers of Sudan is to seek the establishment of balanced relations with their neighbours and with major world powers and avoid giving the impression that they are aligned with this party or that. They must also accept some of the rebels' demands which do not encroach on Sudan's national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

An economic recovery in Sudan can greatly boost the government's ability to deal effectively with the rebellion in the South and cope with other problems. The Sudanese have the natural potentials to achieve such a recovery once political stability prevails in the country. With a reasonably sufficient amount of foreign help, Sudan can serve as a major food supplier to the rest of the Arab world.

A Marshal-type of Arab plan for Sudan can be extremely beneficial to Sudan and other Arab states where food security is considered a major problem.



An Arab conference on terrorism

IN AN interview with Lebanon's Al-Usbua' Al-Arabi weekly published last week, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan made an important call for holding a pan-Arab conference to discuss the means of combating terrorism. This call assumes a special significance because it comes at a time when the West has succeeded in making terrorism the catchword of the 1980's, and has also created a most unfortunate parity between Arabs and terrorism.

In coming to terms with this sad phenomenon of terrorism, Arabs should try to underline the fact that terrorism has not been properly defined up till now. Everybody is using the term, and everybody is using it loosely. It is high time for concerned Arabs to remind the United States and other Western countries that they should not expect Arabs to partake in the war against terrorism unless they fully understand what the term really stands for.

An Arab conference on terrorism would indeed be a marvellous idea because it would give Arabs the chance to express their stand on indiscriminate acts of violence which not only violate the modern peace-loving nature of Arab societies, but also stands in glaring contrast with the true teachings of Islam and the genuine spirit of Arabic civilization.

Arab fighters had often been warned throughout the long history of Arabic battles against various enemies, not to harm innocent civilians, especially women, children, and older people. They had even been warned by their leaders who understood the true spirit of Islam, not to chop down a tree or a green twig in the countries under their administration unless there is strong military or (logistic) justification for such acts.

It should be pointed out, furthermore, that indiscriminate acts of violence by any party, group or individuals will never serve any purpose. Indiscriminate terror is indeed a two-edged sword as His Highness Prince Hassan correctly described it. It is definitely counter-productive , and it only gives the enemies of our nation the justification they need for carrying out their plots and conspiracies against the interests of our people.

It is indeed high time for Arabs to get together and tell the world that indiscriminate terror is alien to Arab culture, and is rejected by the Arab people who value human life and respect the rights of all innocent people to be safe from harm.

An Arab conference on terrorism would also be an appropriate forum to discuss means of ending terrorist acts directed at the Arabs by Israel and other states. Rejecting acts of indiscriminate violence by some individuals only tells one part of the broader tragic aspects of terrorism. Exposing state-sponsored Israeli terrorism should also be on the top of the list in any conference on this phenomenon of the 1980's. Perhaps what the new Western crusade against (terrorism) lacks most apart from not defining the problem, is the fact that they rarely stop to look into the root causes of terrorism and its objectives.

It is true that there can be no justification for individual acts of terror that are aimed against innocent civilians, but any serious discussions of the problem would be less than complete if it fails to consider the objective reasons that prompt some individuals to carry out such acts. We are not, again, looking for justification that would (legalize) these acts, but we are simply calling on people who are concerned about combating terrorism to remember that turbulent political situations where injustice and deprivation prevail are fertile breeding grounds for what is known as terrorism. And unless the problem is confronted on its breeding grounds, it will continue to escalate.

Even the Charter of the United Nations respects the rights of down trodden people to fight their oppressors. And most of the countries that are now waging this new crusade against the Arabs under the pretext of combating terrorism have at one point or another in their national history resorted to methods that quality now to be included under the new umbrella of terrorism. Why have these acts been right and honourable for them, but are now considered wrong and unjustifiable for others?

The sooner the Arabs get together and discuss the various aspects related to this phenomenon of terrorism, the sooner they hope that some sanity is going to prevail in the West which is being mobilized nowadays to lump all Arabs under the vague and undefined stigma of terrorism.

It is not enough for the Arabs to just complain among themselves that they are the victims of Israeli state terrorism. They have to also tell the world that they condemn all acts of indiscriminate terror, and that a comprehensive discussion of what is known as terrorism cannot be categorized as complete unless it tackles the root causes of this unfortunate happening.

Iran-Iraq war boosts Chile's infant arms trade

By Tim Frasca
Compass News Features

SANTIAGO, Chile — Spurred by an international embargo, Chile has developed a booming new armaments industry, with lucrative cluster-bomb sales to Iraq leading the exports bonanza.

Although it is less than 10 years old, the modern Chilean arms trade is believed to rank third in Latin America, behind Brazil's $1 billion and Argentina's $500 million industries.

The nucleus of the trade is the growing complex of arms — and explosives — related companies built up since 1979 by 44-year-old Carlos Cardoen.

It was a massive explosion on 25 January at Cardoen Industries' cluster-bomb factory in the port city of Iquique, 2,000 km north of Santiago, that focussed national attention on the new armaments business.

Weapons production was originally stimulated by an arms blockade of Chile by major manufacturing countries because of its human rights record, especially the 1978 car-bomb assassination of dissident Orlando Letelier in Washington.

Chilean officials began to consider what armaments could be made at home. But the business really took off when the Iran-Iraq war created a vast market for a Cardoen specialty — cluster bombs.

A cluster bomb contains hundreds of small bomblets which scatter and devastate a wide area with deadly shrapnel. Cardoen's 500 kilo model, for example, carries 430 mini-bombs and blasts an area of 160 acres (65 hectares).

In late 1984 the appearance of an unscheduled Iraq Air jetliner at Santiago's international airport tipped off the local press that a major arms relatioship was already well established.

Soon afterward, deliveries from Santiago were discontinued; Iraq now reportedly loads its purchases in Iquique. A British magazine specializing in the arms trade has estimated that Cardoen has sold cluster bombs worth $200 million to Iraq alone.

The company makes its cluster bombs adaptable to Warsaw Pact aircraft — essential for sales to such countries as Iraq which use Soviet Mig-23s.

Although he refuses to confirm any figures, Cardoen, founder and 99 per cent owner of the enterprise, says his company is Chile's leading private exporter and that arms are now the country's fifth most important product, behind copper, fruit, fish meal and cellulose.

Cardoen is reported to be advising the Iraqis on the installation of their own cluster-bomb plants. Spain also is said to be interested in constructing a Cardoen plant near Madrid.

Other countries believed to be Cardoen customers, although never confirmed, include Honduras, El Salvador, and Morocco. Ferrimar Industries, a competing Chilean company which produces a similar bomb, has signed deals with Pakistan and Nigeria, according to ex-employees, although the Pakistan sale was later cancelled.

Persistent rumours that someone is selling cluster bombs to Iran, too — possibly through an intermediary — surfaced at the recent FIDA '86 International Air Show here, when arms salesmen from 18 countries displayed their latest products.

A total of 129 companies took part in the show, the only one of its kind in Latin America. Air Force chiefs from Peru and Brazil and the South African deputy defence minister were among the visitors.

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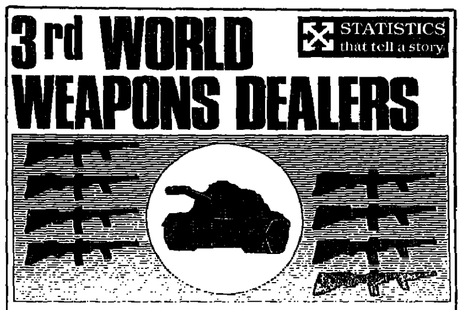
The Iquique explosion, described by local people as "like Hiroshima," sparked criticism of safety and working conditions. Of 29 workers killed in the blast, only six bodies were ever recovered.

Cardoen assemblers make less than $100 a month, enabling the company to undercut competing US, British and French cluster bombs.

Cardoen, who studied explosives engineering at the University of Utah in the United States, started building up his armaments conglomerate in 1979, assembling Pirana armored cars under a Swiss licence.

"I'll have to build Jimmy Carter a statue," Cardoen remarked once.



Major arms production in the Third World is concentrated in a very few countries, with India and Israel between them accounting for 54 percent of the total. Exports have grown dramatically but are very modest by international standards - 1.3 percent of the global total during 1980-84.

LEADING THIRD WORLD ARMS PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS 1950--84

Ranks as producer	Country	Production ($ million)	Exports ($ million)	Rank as exporter
1	India	3,923	10	9
2	Israel	2,885	595	2
3	South Africa	1,143	54	4
4	Brazil	1,116	629	1
5	Taiwan	1,051	-	-
6	North Korea	775	6	10
7	Argentina	599	17	8
8	South Korea	478	173	3
9	Egypt	289	20	7
10	ASEAN countries	249	-	-
-	Indonesia	-	34	5
-	Singapore	-	32	6

Warning against attack on Syria

By Farida Ghani Burtis
Compass News Features

UNITED NATIONS — The Libyan ambassador to the United Nations, Ali Abdulssalam Treiki, warned in an interview here that any new raids on Libya would lead to serious escalation in the Mediterranean, and "if there is an attack against Syria, then the entire Arab world will be involved in a war against the United States and Israel."

Treiki, speaking calmly at this desk in the heavily-guarded Libyan mission, urged the West to look more closely at Col. Mo'ammer Qadhafi's policies.

"One must differentiate between revolution and terrorism," he said. "Libya stands for revolution against oppression and denial of rights to people all over the world, not for the killing of innocent people."

The new multi-storey building that houses the Libyans is surrounded by armed uniformed security guards. In the lobby closed-circuit television cameras monitor the movements of visitors. A metal detector like those at airports stands at the entrance. Nearby are displayed copies of Qadhafi's "Green Book" — his guide to the Libyan revolution.

Treiki has a scholarly manner befitting his Ph.D in history from Toulouse University, France. Greying hair and a serious expression make him look older than his 47 years. He wears a gray Western suit and could pass for an American banking executive.

But he is Qadhafi's right-man in UN circles, and his statements are a precise reflection of Qadhafi's thinking. Treiki served as Libya's ambassador to the world body 1982-84, then became Foreign Minister, and returned to the UN as ambassador after the US attack on Libya on 15 April.

"The Palestinians are being oppressed because the United States supports the Israeli aggressor in the Middle East," Treiki said. "Unless the United States changes its position on Middle East issues, relations between Libya and the US cannot improve, although we are ready for a dialogue to normalize ties."

I asked about the bomb explosion in a Berlin night club which killed an American soldier and triggered the US attack on Tripoli and Banghazi.

"We condemn it," said Treiki. "If the United States has any proof of our involvement, why don't they produce it at the United Nations?"

Reacting to Secretary of State George Shultz's remarks that he favoured "covert action" to overthrow Qadhafi as a possible alternative to future military attacks, Treiki said, "These are new steps of provocation and aggression against Libya."

He said, "In May 1983, terrorists trained by the United States in Khartoum and other places in the region penetrated into Libya through Tunisia, but Libya captured them." Administration officials have said that President Reagan twice authorized covert projects to encourage a coup against Qadhafi, but these efforts were fruitless, because of the lack of credible opposition to the Libyan leader.

About the anti-terrorist consensus reached by the Big Seven in their recent summit, Treiki said, "Compared with the views expressed at the Tokyo summit by a few countries, we have the support of more than 100 non-aligned nations.

"I think the United States will realize that it cannot get away with such aggression."

Treiki believes that any further attacks against Libya would lead to "Very big escalation of hostilities in an already sensitive area."

Asked what indication he had of a united Arab position, he replied, "Every Arab country has supported Libya against US aggression.

"Even the Saudi Arabian relations with the United States amount to nothing but camaraderie. The Saudis can obtain the types of weapons provided by the United States in countries like France and Belgium."

Commenting on press reports on a possible change in the power structure in Libya, Treiki said, "Any country not on good terms with the United States is made to look ridiculous by false reports."

He said, "The mass media also tried to suppress news of demonstrations in Western Europe and the United States." Was Libya satisfied with Soviet help at the time of the 15 April attack?

"We are most grateful to the Soviet Union for its strong expression of support." He said Libya continued to "receive military help from the Soviet Union."

Treiki said he was not too concerned about the safety of Libyan diplomats in New York.

"We are restricted to the five boroughs of New York City, and we respect the law, but taking risks is part of our destiny in this line of work." When asked to provide examples in his personal lifestyle of adhering to the philosophy of Qadhafi, as enunciated in his Green Book, Treiki replied. "We have no servants; we do all the housework ourselves; my wife does the cooking."

Since Qadhafi deplores the mistreatment of women, both in Eastern and Western countries, education for Qadhafi's three daughters is considered just as important as it is for his son.

"In Libya, my wife is an English teacher," Treiki said.

Born in Misrata in Libya, Tr lki received his BA degree from the University of Benghazi in 1960. He obtained his Ph.D in 1967, and since 1970 has held a number of positions in the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

Mr Ali Treiki of Libya

Farida Ghani Burtis is a freelance reporter who specializes in UN coverage.

● "Libya stands for revolution against oppression and denial of rights to people all over the world, not for the killing of innocent people." — Ali Treiki.

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Time for justice

ANOTHER ARAB-AMERICAN has been shot dead this week in the United - States. Dr Ismael Farouqi and his wife died after their house was attacked by a group of unidentified persons in the city of Philadelphia where they lived. Their children suffered injuries. The attack is not the first of its kind nor will it be the last. Militant Zionist groups have been declaring publicly that they will revert to all possible means and go any length to stop Arab and Muslim activists in the United States especially those who have taken it upon themselves to defend the Palestinian cause.

And as one might expect the death of an Arab man, especially if he is a Palestinian, is hardly noticed and brought to the American public. We can still recall the brutal killing of Alex Odeh in Los Angeles some months ago, the arson attacks on Arab-American organization branch offices and the threat calls - many of these organization's representatives receive from Zionist groups.

We would like to see a public reaction in the United States on the highest level possible to the campaign of terror and intimidation directed against the Arab-Americans and advocates of Arab causes. What is happening in the American arena is totally unacceptable. Not only by the Arabs but by loyal and sincere Americans as well.

The United States has always been the promised haven for those who believe in the freedom of the word and its sanctity. What we are witnessing today is a violation and an infringement of this freedom and an intrusion on its related liberties. The killing of an innocent man is a great crime under any law and is soundly condemned by any culture. But when the motive is to silence that man's mouth, then the crime is doubled and the punishment inconceivable. The United States, for many Arabs, stands for three principles — freedom, justice and equality. It is sad to see these ideals falling apart.

Africa: 'Sport Aid'

BOB GELDOF is not a saint. Neither is he an angel. But by making a reality of 'Band Aid' and 'Sport Aid,' to help alleviate the sufferings of millions in Africa, he has at least given our materialistic world a human face. Also, by breaking through insurmountable and cumbersome bureaucratic barriers, he has amply demonstrated that all is not lost. At least, idealism is still around.

'Sport Aid' has proved something. The plight of many who would have otherwise starved has not been relegated to the background for more news-making events.

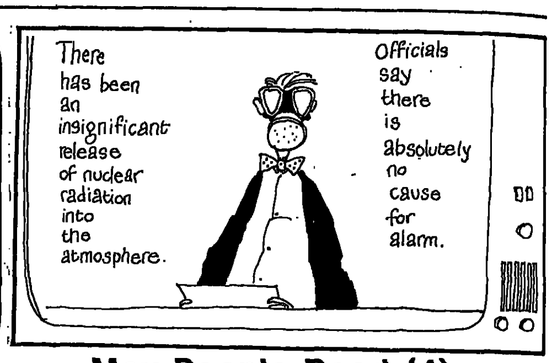
But why is Africa saddled with all these predicaments? It is mostly due to the shortsightedness of most African leaders. It is unfortunate. The progressive promises made during electioneering campaigns have been thrown to the wind. Most of them are bloated with certain maladies. Egomania. Selfishness. But some of the catastrophies are not the makings of presidents. In fact, rarely do governments have the magic wands to ward of the abysmal effects of drought and desertification.

The Western world is equally to blame. They colonized these African countries and what did they leave at the time of independence? Their legacy was unworkable political theories which are foreign and make a mess of the standards inherent in the traditional African society.

The human mind is richly endowed. It can create. It can also destroy. But let us ask whether we have put our creative abilities to positive use. We doubt it. The Chernobyl disaster bears a magnificent testimony. The Tokyo summit also failed miserably to address any of the problems of Africa. At the moment, surplus food is 'sitting' in the warehouses of the EEC countries. Isn't it immoral to deny starving Africans access to it because of market demands?

The plight of Africa is a stigma which brands the faces of all so-called civilized countries of the world. A whole continent, the mother of continents, is going hungry and poor. Sport Aid' is an attempt to humanize our world. It is a way to wash the sins we have committed towards millions of people whom we know nothing about.

But what is so important about 'Sport Aid' is not the fact that few million dollars have been raised in aid of Africans. It is in the knowledge that the people of the world from North to South and from East to West can work together.



May People Read (4)

By A Anani
Member of the World League of Muslim Writers

THE SAME voice tormented my conscience with the repetition of one and same question the whole daylong in this blessed month of fasting for Allah's sake. "Now tell me, oh man, who insists on writing to illuminate others.. why are Muslims short of aspiring to the level of the Islamic ideal and great teachings?"

This is undoubtedly the biggest question which faces Muslims all over the world. So many non-Muslim thinkers declare their satisfaction that Islam is really a great religion, and others say exactly like Muslims that Islam alone is the really true and efficient religion... and yet present day Muslims are among the most degraded peoples of the world. Our cities are dirtier, poorer and more diseased than other places in the world? We have in many places the worst and lowest standards of productivity? We have millions of idle men, who have fairly good opportunity to work, but for one reason or another they are both unemployed and miserable.

What explanation is to be afforded for this wide gap between the religion and its followers, between word and act, the "de jure" and the"de facto"? This is the question that must be correctly answered before talking of mere hopes for a real Islamic reniassance?

Is this gap, as some people over-simplify facts, a mere outcome of long decades of imperialistic dominance, when Muslim trade routes, Muslim economy and Muslim freedom were confiscated and the unity and prosperity of the Islamic world were shattered to pieces?

Or was it the outcome of incessant wars, first against the barbarians of Central Asia and then against the half-mad hordes of the Crusaders?

Or may be it was because of internal deterioration caused by the prevalence of ignorant sectors of Muslims who were absolutely unaware of all the cultural aspects of Islam and consequently turned it into a religion of relentless fighting with other nations?

Why have the wheels of Islam stopped their once magnificent revolution and come to a standstill in a world of clay and infectious swamps? Could that have been the result of bloody differences and internal grudge?

The case of the castrated arms deal: The Stinger affair

By Mark A. Bruzonsky
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON — Every aspect of the arms sale to Saudi Arabia has been badly bungled by the Reagan administration. Never in recent memory has Saudi Arabia been so badly embarrassed. An arms sale that originally included America's best war planes and totalled billions of dollars, has now shrunk to $250 million worth of resupply missiles that will not even be delivered until 1989. And even this might not be approved by Congress.

What really happened this week is that on Tuesday morning of last week Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar was summoned to the White House. Administration officials deceptively have insisted that the Saudis "requested" that the Stinger missiles be left out of the sale. But that's not true.

What is true is that the White House became aware that the tentative administration decision to delete the Stingers had been leaked to the New York Times. Fearing that the story would come out before even the Saudis had been told, Prince Bandar was called to the White House. He was told that the embarrassment would be even greater if the Saudis didn't themselves give the impression of requesting the Stinger omission.

Prince Bandar quickly called King Fahd and told him of the latest predicament the Americans had gotten them into. King Fahd gave his approval and Bandar returned to the White House. And together with Bandar the administration then began putting out the story that the "request" to remove the Stingers from the grossly shrivelled arms sale had actually come from the Saudis. But Bandar's displeasure at going along with the charade was evident as he refused to answer reporter's questions but did mutter under his breath, as he departed, that he agreed the Jewish lobby had too much power in Washington. That sad utterance with Bandar's back to the camera was broadcast on the evening news.

Nor did the White House assure itself that the Stinger deletion would work with the Senate. There wasn't any time for that. So, more than a year and a half after the original arms package was to be submitted, and with that package hardly recognizable after its recurrent castration, the Reagan administration still doesn't have the votes to even override a presidential veto. This matter come up again in early June. In the interim, Jewish lobby pressure will be considerable, even if hard to trace.

Anyway, no matter what happens now, the US-Saudi strategic relationship has been badly damaged and US-Saudi ties badly strained — just as Israel has wanted.

Moreover, even the AWACS transfer scheduled for this summer is becoming less likely though this was approved by Congress in 1981 and the Saudis have already paid more than $3 billion for these aircrafts.

A national asset

Memorandum

By Osama El-Sherif

AS JORDAN prepares for the second expatriates conference to be held in Amman this summer, it is wise that the organizers of this important annual gathering consider the outcome and achievements of the previous meeting so as to make this year's convention a meaningful one rather than turning it into a ritual.

Almost every country in the world has expatriates of its own living and working in foreign countries. The word expatriate should not be confined to those who live and work temporarily in a rich country or region, the Gulf area in our case, but most importantly it should include those who choose to make another country their permanent home of residence while acknowledging their native identity and culture. Hundreds of thousands of Arabs have emigrated to the United States, Canada, South American and European countries, decades ago and who now, are naturalized citizens of these countries.

In economic terms, emigrants might not contribute to their countries' of origin as much as those, who work for short periods of time in the oil states for example. But in the long run, the political and cultural influence of Arab emigrants is by far a more lasting and beneficial one.

The role of Arab expatriates in the Gulf, for example, is a temporary one ending with their final return to their countries of origin. Native countries can do very little to prolong their stay or increase their influence. As much as this situation is important for the native country, its benefit is measured mainly in economic rewards seen in remittances these workers transfer to their families back home. To bank on their political and cultural weight is useless since they are neither citizens of these countries nor is it in their interest to interfere in the political affairs of the host country.

As for emigrants the picture is completely different. As citizens of the recipient countries, it is in the interest of the native country to keep that umbilical cord between them and their homeland very much alive. Not only will these people act as envoys for their native states in their new homes, but they will help perpetuate the causes and ideals of their places of origin. The area where this rapport can work best is in the United States where more than three million Arabs have become citizens. Many Arab-Americans have assiduously aspired and attained important positions in both local and federal politics. Many have become well-known mayors, businessmen, politicians, journalists and university professors with their sagacious opinions affecting public opinion.

We have to agree that the confrontation with our enemy has been taking place mainly in the public opinion arena in the last decade or so. Notwithstanding the duty Arab-Americans and indeed all emigrants have towards their new homelands, it is through keeping them in touch with the political, cultural and social developments that take place in their native birthplace that they can extend a helping hand when it is needed. We only have to look at the mechanics of the Jewish lobby and community in the United States to see how Israel has benefitted tremendously from the foreign policy making of a super power like the United States.

It is not easy to transfer Arab-Americans into a united community where Arab interests can be sponsored and served. To advocate Arab causes in the United States, the Arabs back home must come to agreement and act in unison. But since we are catering for our own expatriates, Jordan must shoulder the responsibility of building concrete bridges to reach the millions of Arabs living in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Australia. Arab emigrants must not, under any circumstances, lose touch with their native homeland. A regular census must be conducted by the Arab League to gather data on the whereabouts, the economic and political influence, the organizational structures and the feed back from these expatriates.

Delegations representing Arab expatriates on all continents must be invited to attend national conferences where they can contribute their own revelations and ideas on the contemporary issues which the Arab world faces. In return, the children of these expatriates must not lose sight of their cultural background and indentity. Schools can be financed, scholarships in Arab universities can be offered and even periodic visits to native lands can be arranged.

The real value of Arab expatriates cannot and should not be measured in dollars and cents only. Long term planning forces us to include them as assets and as vital forces of change in our long struggle to achieve our national goals.

Stockman's White House book takes Washingtonians by storm

By Dana Adams Schmidt
Star US Correspondent

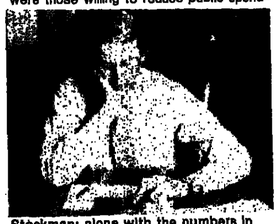
WASHINGTON — What happens when a young and ambitious intellectual is thrust into prartnership with a group of middleaged professional politicians?

Well, it has happened here in Washington in the case of David Stockman, 34, who rose sensationally from obscure origins in position of key financial advisor to President Reagan, and who has now blown it in a book called The Triumph of Politics: The Failure of the Reagan Revolution" published by Harper & Row of New York which paid him an advance of $2.3 million.

For about a year the two elements covered up their differences. It seems that the President even liked this brash young man even though he did not always understand what he was saying. The President forgave him with "molatened eyes" when Stockman gave a long and basically derogatory interview about his work for the administration to a Boston journalist named William Greider, who sold it to the Atlantic Monthly. That was in December, 1981. But now the differences have burst into public view in a way that is stimulating a good deal of self examination.

Stockman, son of a small-town Michigan businessman, swung himself, by his own efforts and personality and undoubted intellectual brilliance, to college scholarships and even to Harvard; then to a job in Washington as assistant to a Republican congressman; to election to Congress; to appointment to a post in the Bureau of the Budget to selection as a key financial advisor on President Reagan's staff. The President saw him as someone who really understood "Reaganomics," who knew what the President was aiming at and how to get there. Mr Reagan put him in charge of budget affairs.

Stockman had a vision of "economic revolution" under President Reagan. He even calls it "my revolution". In his book, rather than Reagan's. By means of lowered taxes, lowered public spending he intended to balance the budget, overcome inflation, promote private enterprise and diminish the role of government in the life of the United States. This was the "revolution."



Stockman: alone with the numbers in Washington

Reagan liked Stockman's ideas, which he saw as a reflection of his own. But when it came to implementing them, the scheme fell apart. Taxes were lowered, but few indeed were those willing to reduce public spending, least of all social welfare. And the President did NOT want to increase taxes. One thing he did want was to increase substantially expenditures for defence.

Stockman got bits and pieces of his programme. He worked hard on Administration officials and Congressmen. Taxes did come down, though Stockman managed eventually to get about $6 billion in taxes restored. Defence spending did go up. But very little came down.

That wasn't good enough. The deficit kept climbing, Stockman kept talking despairingly to the journalist Greider. It became clear to him that there would be no revolution. Then Greider published the interview, ostensibly without authorization. Stockman's relationship with the Reagan administration might have ended there. Stockman was summoned to the Presidential presence; this was supposed to be his trip to the woodshed.

But Reagan's sentimentalism prevailed. He assumed Stockman's basic loyalty and sent him back to work. One of the President's close associates told Stockman to "stuff his wounded pride." And he did. He must have been surprised himself at this turn of events.

He carried on for another four years while he wrote his book. When the book was due to be published in the spring of 1986 he quit.

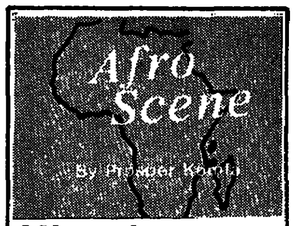
This book is at once a confession of his own as well as the administration's failure. He admits that he had known for some time that the "revolution" at which he aimed will fail. His financial analyses are interesting and understandable. And he indulges in extensive character assassination of those with whom he worked in the administration.

He alludes mercilessly to House Speaker Tip O'Neill's "massive corpulence and scarlet varicose nose." James A Baker III, then chief of staff to the President, was, he says, "not very versed on matters of policy, nor intensely interested in them." like others at that level, Baker "never read anything. They lived off the (TV) tube." Donald Reagan he calls a "yes man", toadying to Reagan. About House Majority Leader James Wright he observes that he is "a snake-oil vendor par excellence, a demagogue of frightening rhetorical power."

Some commentators call Stockman a traitor. Others say it was dishonorable for him to have gone on working for the President when he knew the scheme had failed. Few indeed have a sympathetic word for him. Perhaps he now has the support of his new employer, a Wall Street firm, which undoubtedly expects to cash in on Stockman's inside knowledge of the workings of the administration.

Some commentators note cynically that Stockman has always been ready to denounce his previous associates in ways that might please his new associates. He turned against his student radicalism when he joined the House Republicans. He denounced Congress to satisfy the administration. And now he will belittle politics for the benefit of his Wall Street bosses. It would be interesting to know what he might have to say about high finance when and if he ever tries to go back into politics.

Washingtonians are reading his book with fascination. Much as they may disapprove of what he has done they note the touches of self-accusation, and they see much truth in his acidic view from inside the administration and about the people in it.



Nigeria: Educational malaise

THE NIGERIAN government of Major-General Babangida has found itself confronted with massive problems as far as education is concerned. This time, it has nothing to do with the lack of space for the numerous students, but rather, it is the mass failure in the annual WAEC examinations which have shocked education authorities to the core.

The West African Examinations Council is a body internationally recognized and charged with the responsibility of conducting annual examinations for students finishing their secondary school education. It is made up of the examining boards of Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Ghana (and maybe in the future Liberia). The council can trace its origins to the colonial days of British tutelage when the papers were set in London. The examinations conducted by the WAEC mean so much to students in Nigeria, since they serve as the criteria for entry into the universities.

As has always been the case, the blame for this abysmal failure has been laid at the doors of the teachers. People hold them responsible for one thing — lack of dedication. However, the reasons stretch further. The various govrnments which have handled the affairs of this huge West African nation since independence, must also share in this horrible state of affairs. In the first place, there has been the failure to allocate the necessary financial resources to match the rapid growth in education. There was also much politicization of education policies which often resulted in 'about-turns' in government plans. One authority described the whole scene thus, 'incoherent educational policies tend to make education a political football.'

The rapid expansion in education was not matched with the availability of trained teachers. During the 1970's, the oil boom in Nigeria enabled it to rely much on teachers from the neighbouring countries especially Ghana. Rather sadly, the drastic drop in oil revenues added to the harsh austerity measures has forced the state governments to terminate the appointments of many expatriate tutors.

The 1979 change-over to civilian rule saw the ascendancy to power of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo in Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Lagos and Bendel states. True to what was in the party's manifesto, a compulsory free education from primary to university level was ordered. Theoretically, it appeared nice but in reality, the aftermath was indeed a sorrowful affair.

Civilian rule in Nigeria, brought with it some bitter experiences for teachers. There was often political interference with education. Punitive transfers took place and promotion was on the basis of party allegiance, rather than merit. Thus teachers, underpaid and greatly frustrated, neglected their students for part-time jobs in order to survive.

Matured educationists have come out with the main causes for such appalling standards. They blame the high standards of WAEC papers. Finally, they accuse the various political authorities of committing blunder by the senseless taking over of schools run by religious denominations, notably Catholics and Baptists.

Arab press

Middle East Press Review

Reconciliation efforts

THE QATARI newspaper Al-Arab commends the efforts currently undertaken by Jordan to bring about Inter-Arab reconciliation. It says the aim of these efforts is to achieve harmony and remove the differences among the largest Arab countries: Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

Expressing hope that these efforts would be crowned with success, the paper warns that past experience has shown beyond any doubt that no Arab country, no matter how large and powerful, can alone deal with the common enemy which is being fully supported by a superpower.

Al-Raya, another Qatar newspaper welcomes the reconciliation efforts, saying that they deserve unreserved appreciation from all the Arabs who have been aspiring for unity as the most effective method to confront the common challenges.

The paper, however, expresses the view that Inter-Arab reconciliation is not something easy to achieve and strenuous efforts will have to be exerted until this most cherished goal is accomplished.

Al-Rai- A'am, a Kuwaiti newspapor, asserts that the present conditions in the Arab world and the successive foreign threats against the Arabs require immediate action and stronger determination to foil hostile attempts against the Arab homeland. It says the Arabs should not continue to show indifference towards Iran's occupation of an Iraqi territory and should not accept the potentials of Egypt being unemployed and must also show more active concern over the tragic situation in Lebanon.

The Kuwaiti paper stresses the importance and the need for immediate common action to settle all differences and come up with a united front that can cope effectively with the foreign threats and repeated humiliation.

Arab summit

Al-Wihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi renews the call for holding an Arab summit conference, saying that the current situation requires a unified Arab position. It also expresses the view that there is no need for the summit to be an emergency one. The need, it adds, is for holding the regular summit which has been delayed for three years.

"The Arabs should realize that maintaining their disintegration and disputes facilitate the task for the common enemy" asserts the Abu Dhabi daily. It also says that the proposed emergency summit which was called to discuss the US attacks on Libya is no longer justified.

Syrian-Israeli tension

Al-Arab daily warns against accepting mild statements released by Washington and Tel Aviv on eased tension between Syria and Israel. It reminds that the policies of the two sides have been based on deception and treachery, adding that past experience should prompt us not to believe what they say.

The paper notes that the slander campaign against Syria and its alleged role in international terrorism is continuing. It says the crusade could be part of preparing the ground for an attack on Syria.

On reported US and European ideas regarding a solution to the Middle East problem Al-Bayan newspaper of Dubai says the information and efforts are deceptive and mere delusions. It goes on to say all US or European moves in the past and present have been designed to mislead the Arabs into believing that something positive is going on and there is no need for action by the Arabs themselves.

"While the United States claims that it seeks a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East, it provides Israel with the most sophisticated weapons to enable it to maintain its aggressions on the Arabs. The European Community, especially Britain which bears a major responsibility towards the Palestinian tragedy, stands fully by Israel's side and gives the Arabs nothing but empty words."

On British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Israel, the newspaper Al-Bayan of Dubai says that Mrs Thatcher seemed to have been convinced that the barriers which prevented former British Prime Ministers from visiting Israel no longer exist and that there is no justification for fear of angry Arab reaction. The paper expresses the view that the Prime Minister's visit is intended mainly to win the support of the Jewish groups in Britain in preparation for the forthcoming general election in Britain. Thatcher may also have sought to demonstrate her loyalty to the United States.

The paper warns that Thatcher's calculations could be mistaken as the public opinion in Britain could view the visit as further humiliating coupled with flattery towards the Zionists and continued unnecessary allegiance to the American policies.

"The Conservatives may soon find out that Mrs Thatcher's visit has severely damaged the party's reputation and encroached on the national pride of the British people," warns Al-Bayan.

Zaki — Ad-Dustour

South Africa's attacks

Al-Bayan also comments on South Africa's raids against three African states, saying that the attacks expose the organic connection, in terms of policies and objectives, between the racist regime, the United States and Israel. It adds that the assaults were a repetition of the US raids on Libya and Israel's aggression on Tunis. They have also been based on the same pretexts which Washington used to justify the hijacking of a civilian Egyptian plane.

"It might be normal to see a close alliance being forged between the racist regimes in Pretoria and Tel Aviv but when the United States joins such alliance, the matter becomes extremely dangerous."

The paper concludes by urging world governments to oppose this kind of state terrorism which has been initiated by the United States and which is being implemented in the Middle East and Africa and Israel respectively.

On Jordan's independence anniversary, Ad-Dustour asserts that on this national occasion, Jordanians from all walks of life pledge to step up their efforts to give the homeland more progress in order to enhance its independence and consolidate it further. It says that in the past four decades since independence was achieved, Jordan has become a haven of security, stability and growth in all domains.

"The glorious record of Jordan in the years of sovereignty in the economic, social and cultural fields gives the independence anniversary its great and proud meanings, deepens the citizens' loyalty towards their leadership and enhances Jordan's international status," writes Ad-Dustour.

Commenting on the independence anniversary, Al-Ra'i newspaper writes that Jordan celebrates the occasion with pride and dignity because it is completely independent from any foreign hegemony and it has achieved a high degree of security and stability. It adds that Jordanians stand ready to defend their national achievements and protect their freedom and independent will.

Israeli Press

Hadashot writes that the state of tension which of late prevails on the Israeli-Syrian borders is still present. And despite the release of statements from the military and political officials in both Israel and Syria, practical indications prove the opposite. Israel has over the last few weeks massed huge military forces on the Al Golan Heights and in South Lebanon.

All signs prove that Israel is planning to launch a military action in the North. The Syrians too, the paper goes on, have dug trenches and tank positions at Al Golan line and in South Lebanon and have allocated hundreds of tanks in these new positions.

The war between Israel and Syria is undoubtedly occurring, comments the paper, especially as Syria insists on the achievement of strategic balance with Israel. Meanwhile, Israel will terminate this issue in its own favour through military might. However, Israel should refrain from attacking Syria lest it finds itself directly involved in a confrontation with the Soviet Union, concludes the paper.

Haaretz comments that the talks which lately ended in Hirtsilia regarding the Taba dispute was not decisive or conclusive as optimists had expected. The negotiators were unable to settle all pending problems and two main issues were left without solution; the members of the arbitration panel and the questions which will be presented to the arbitrators.

There is a big possibility, the paper goes on, that the United States will agree to step up its efforts to find a positive settlement. This possibility is not based on the talks held by Ezer Weizman in Washington which created new differences among the Likud and Labour parties, but on the principle which states that the solution of Taba dispute complies with and serves American aims and interests.

Furthermore, America in this phase looks forward to satisfy both the Israeli and the Egyptian sides. Yet, the paper comments, despite Washington's efforts by this issue, Israel is requested to ease up on its stubborn attitudes and grant concessions, especially as the dispute over Taba issue might threaten the peace accord between Israel and Egypt.

Al Hamishmar writes that the Israeli Regional Water Company has cut water supplies available to 75 Jewish settlements in addition to 25 settlements over the past months. These settlements are indebted to the Water Company to the tune of $ 5 million. This indicates that the settlements will receive little amount of water for only drinking purposes.

It is clear, the paper comments, that depriving the settlements of water supplies will substantially lead to their complete breakdown. It will also force the majority of the settlers to leave the country for good. We have the reason to say, the paper concludes, that under the present Israeli government most of the Jewish settlements will suffer that gloomy fate.

Kol Haer says that the economic crisis which is currently plaguing the settlements of the Jordan Valley is becoming intolerable. The accumulated debts of these settlements are rapidly increasing and was recently be estimated at $30 million.

What makes things worse is that they face great difficulties in transporting and marketing their agricultural products in the local markets. This could be ascribed to the drastically low prices for their products in contrast to their high productive costs.

Consequently, the paper points out, we notice that scores of Jewish farmers at these settlements have become jobless and are seriously thinking of leaving their settlements and emigrating.

Yesterday for instance, the inhabitants of Ward Ariha in the Jordan Valley evacuated their settlement and went to Jerusalem in a protest against their woeful economic straits.

The Israeli government is urgently requested to step in and resuce these citizens by improving their life conditions before it becomes too late, concludes the paper.

Al Quds Arabic paper writes that Margaret Thatcher was the first British premier to visit Israel while still in office. The world still remembers that Britain has played a primary role in creating the tragedy from which the entire Middle East region is suffering.

That was due to Britain's mandate over Palestine through which it approved for the Jews the right to usurp the area. Meanwhile, it denied the Palestinians their legitimate rights.

The paper goes on, Britain is now directly following all the United States foreign policies. Describing Margaret Thatcher as the "iron woman" could be relevant in the sense that she completely sticks to the White House strategies. This is simply observed by her representative's voting in the Security Council against a resolution that imposes economic sanctions on South Africa. That resolution was opposed by Britain and the United States, concludes the paper.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

Risk insurance in the Middle East: How the oil-rich region is rated

THE FEARS of American nationals venturing abroad are not limited to those of private citizens alone. Contract firms and export companies based in the US consider the political risks carefully before they engage in deals outside this country. Naturally, insurance companies have addressed themselves to corporate needs by offering a variety of risk policies — the demand has generated a billion-dollar market.

New York-based Frost and Sullivan provides political risk analysis to governments, missions to the United Nations, insurance companies, importers, exporters, and national banks. The overwhelming majority of Froat and Sullivan's business concerns the Middle East, where researchers make forecasts regarding a country's government stability, economy and potential unrest which may affect business.

The firm rates countries in this region on a scale of A to D, A being the safest, D the most jeopardizing for US interests. Saudi Arabia, for example, is considered in the "B" range, according to Michael O'Leary at Frost and Sullivan. It is making outbacks in projects and even cancelling a number of them, but O'Leary regards the Royal Family as quite capable of handling any political and fiscal difficulties. Egypt, with its economic strains and disquieting opposition movements, is considered in the "C – /D+" range. Libya, Iran, Iraq and Syria, embroiled in conflicts or where turnoil risks are high, are of course in the most volatile "D" range.

The Washington-based Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC) is an arm of the US government which sells political risk insurance. Its prerequisite for selling a policy is a US government treaty with the particular country involved. 15.3 per cent of all OPIC funded-projects involves interests in the Middle East.

There are multiple levels and costs of coverage. The annual base rates per $100 of coverage are within the following range: for inconvertability 25-30c; for expropriation 30-90c; for political violence 60c. The latter has a civil strife rider which may be attached for approximately 75c per $100.

As a government entity, OPIC will not sell risk for a project which will compete for the US market or compete with US labour. Any firm engaged in a project which OPIC deems as undermining to US foreign policy interests, must simply go elsewhere for risk coverage.

Buck Jordan, a member of the OPIC staff, points to OPIC-funded projects in Egypt and the Sudan as examples of the US government's endorsement of development-oriented schemes. In 1981, OPIC insured a glass container manufacturing facility in Cairo. The participating American firm, Owens-Illinois, is now the joint partner in a business which employs 600 Egyptians and is expected to account for an estimated $55 million in foreign exchange savings over its first five years of operation.

Similarly, in 1983 OPIC insured the continuing expansion of the Union Carbide Corp in Khartoum, in the Sudan. Union Carbide is helping to develop the country's communications and electricity networks.

The duration of OPIC policies, in contrast to the average three-year limit allowed by the private insurers, is up to twenty years on a confirmed basis. In the Middle East, this long term protection is often essential for energy or oil exploration projects which tend to be ongoing.

Thus, in the Middle East, other underwriters often pick up where OPIC is not permitted to tread, according to Rick Wagner, a risk analyst for Marsh and McLennan, a broker for policies such as American International Group's (AIDG) risk insurance. Marsh and McLennan insures projects in Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and offers policies which are more appropriate for short-term projects like construction contracts.

A country making budget cuts and/or low on foreign currency reserves is less inclined to make a foreign exchange provision for projects non-essential to the country's development. The latter are regarded as luxury projects, according to Frederick Vigneron at New York-based American International Underwriters, and insurers will be less inclined to underwrite such projects. "The Middle East, even the so-called oil-rich countries, are currently on a credit watch for most exporters and underwriters," says Vigneron. Thus, while a company's profitability and growth are important consideration, American International Underwriters' ultimate guidline is the reliability of the obligee. Vigneron regards company risk in Egypt, for example, quite differently from Frost and Sullivan's analysts. Because countries like Egypt are to a large extent subsidized by US aid. Non-payment to US companies is not seen as so threatening.

(MidEast Report)

Soviet labour group coming

AMMAN (Star) — A Soviet labour delegation is expected in Amman by the tenth of next month, on a one week visit to the Kingdom, at the invitation of the Jordanian labour union.

The delegation includes Mrs Iman Koliva, chairman of the Workers Federation of the Soviet Turkumania Republic and Mr Alic Sunjug, head of the International Relations at the Soviet Workers Federation.

They will meet officials of the labour movement in Jordan and hold official talks with Sami Mansour, head of the Central Council, and Sameer Gardan, the Secretary-General; both of the Jordan labour movement. The delegation will also visit a number of tourist sites, factories and firms in the Kingdom.

The current rumpus: An exchanger's view

By Ibtisam Dababneh
Special to The Star

"THE RECENT instructions issued by the Central Bank of Jordan to local banks and other financial institutions concerning exchanges should have been issued years ago and not after the failure of one exchange firm," according to one unnamed local exchanger.

He added that the instructions, which call for organizing credit facilities for exchangers, states that any licensed person, private or public institution that deals with money exchanging or operates any other sort of commercial business is not allowed to take loans which are more than three times their authorized capitals.

Further all exchangers are prohibited from withdrawing cheques unless they are totally paid. Moreover, exchangers are not permitted to purchase withdrawal cheques. This article, in the exchanger's view, has no significance at all. It rather affects the mutual confidence which is considered the main tool in collecting savings in the exchange system.

The instructions further state that the acceptance of deposit cheques is a private issue between the exchanger and customers. "There is no relation between the failure of an exchange firm and the current economic situation. The failure of any exchange firm is because of mismanagement."

He added that any exchange firm which experiences financial problems will have problems carrying on business and naturally will look to other alternatives, such as operating deposit accounts that attract high interest rates. The prospects of such high interest rates coaxed people into taking loans from the regular banking system in order to open accounts with an exchanger.

Despite the fact that the Central Bank of Jordan prohibited exchangers from dealing in gold speculations two years ago, some exchangers are still engaged in this illegal business. Neither is there the possibility of it stopping, because the Jordanian market is part of the international market. "As a result, we exchangers have no other alternative than to deal with this world market in accordance with its conditions and methods. "What matters here is

Continued on page 12

Contracts & Contacts

TENDER NO. 45/86. Supply and laying of water pipes, pump station and a water reservoir for the Water Authority of Jordan. Tender documents are available at the Authority's offices in Jabal Al Hussein for JD 300. Closing date: 2 June 1986.

• TENDER NO. 46/86. Supply and laying of 44 kilometres of water pipes for the Water Authority of Jordan. Tender documents are available at the Authority for JD 300. Closing date: 5 July 1986.

• TENDER NO. 47/86. Supply and installation of 28 kilometres of water pipes and two water reservoirs for the Water Authority of Jordan. Tender documents are available at the Authority for JD 300. Closing date: 1 July 1986.

• OPENING AND asphalting of roads for Kufr Abeel Municipality. Tender documents are available at the municipality for the JD 10. Closing date: 2 June 1986.

• SUPPLY OF 120 light units for Muthalath Al Ardah village council, Dair Alla governorate. Tender documents are available at the village council for JD 5. Closing date: 2 June 1986.

• CONSTRUCTION OF a post office centre for Ghor Al Safi area. Tender documents are available at Al Karak Works Directorate for JD 10. Closing date 1 June 1986.

• TENDER NO. 12/86. Supply of first aid accessories for the Civil Defence Directorate. Tender documents are available at the Directorate for JD 5. Closing date: 31 May 1986.

• TENDER NO. 41/86. Supply of uniforms for the Royal Air Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the Directorate. Closing date: 5 June 1986.

• TENDER NO. 2621. Supply of vehicle spare parts for the Jordan Royal Maintenance Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the directorate for JD 15. Closing date: 2 July 1986.

• TENDER NO. 192/86. Supply of heating and airconditioning materials for the Public Supply Department. Tender documents are available at the department for JD 5. Closing date: 25 June 1986.

• CONSTRUCTION OF 18 stores for Al Husun municipality. Tender documents are available at the Municipality for JD 20. Closing date: 3 June 1986.

• CONSTRUCTION OF a school building for Al Rawdah village council - Ajloun governorate. Tender documents are available at the village council for JD 20. Closing date: 31 May 1986.

• CONSTRUCTION OF warehouses for the Civil Aviation Authority. Tender documents are available at the Authority's offices for JD 10. Closing date: 5 June 1986.

• TENDER NO. 10788. Supply of American-made vehicles for the Royal Maintenance Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the directorate for JD 30. Closing date: 22 July 1986.

• SUPPLY OF spare parts of wireless sets for the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Tender documents are available at the Royal Radio Force Directorate for JD 20. Closing date: 1 June 1986.

Jordan, Tunisia get loans

JEDDAH, (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will extend two loans totalling $20 million to Jordan and Tunisia under agreements signed here.

Jordan will use the $15 million credit to import crude oil, while the five million extended to Tunisia will help finance the country's purchases of paper pulp.

The loan for Jordan, signed by IDB president Dr Ahmed Mohamed Ali and Jordanian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammed Rasool Alkilani, brings the total assistance to Jordan by the Bank since October to $45 million.

The agreement with Tunisia was signed by IDB vice-president Qusmane Seck and the president of the Tunisian National Paper Pulp Company, Abdul Aziz Al Shaabani. The new loan brings total IDB assistance to Tunisia since October last to $35.79 million.

Meanwhile, the IDB board of executive directors has begun its 83rd meeting to consider a number of foreign trade financing operations, loans and technical assistance for its member countries.

The meeting was also expected to consider several new development projects and review the progress of IDB-financed schemes in member countries.

Dollar, gold down

LONDON (AP) — The US dollar fell against European currencies and the Japanese yen in nervous, uncertain trading on Wednesday after dealers concluded they were unlikely to push the dollar any higher. Gold was down in Europe after strengthening in Hong Kong.

Dealers said the technical trading that had pushed the dollar higher in recent days seemed to be coming to an end, while most of West Germany was going into a long weekend starting on Thursday and dealers in Frankfurt said this was slowing trading.

"People aren't sure what they should do," said a Frankfurt dealer.

In Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins, the dollar fell to a closing 168.90 yen from Tuesday's 169.68. Later, in London, it was quoted at 168.80 yen.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Tuesday:

— 2.2727 West German Marks, down from 2.2860
— 1.8785 Swiss Francs, down from 1,8905
— 7.2415 French Francs, down from 7.2865
— 2.5555 Dutch Guilders, down from 2.5735
— 1,560.00 Italian Lire, down from 1,566.50
— 1.3793 Canadian Dollars, up from 1.3717

In London, the British pound was quoted at $1.5030 compared with 1.4965 Tuesday.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of $342.20. At mid-morning on Wednesday, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of $341.60

In Zurich, the bid price was $341.55, down from 342.78.

Silver was quoted in London Wednesday at a bid price of $5.13 a troy ounce, up from Tuesday's 5.12.

EURODEPOSIT RATES

Currencies Period	US $	DM	FF	SF	D Fls	Yen	Sterling Pound
1 M	6 7/8	4 7/16	7 1/16	4 1/2	6 1/4	4 7/8	10
2 M	6 7/8	4 7/16	7 1/16	4 9/16	6 1/16	4 7/8	10
3 M	6 7/8	4 7/16	7 1/16	4 9/16	5 7/8	4 13/16	9 15/16
6 M	6 7/8	4 1/2	7 1/16	4 3/8	5 1/16	4 13/16	9 3/4
9 M	7	4 9/16	7 1/8	4 5/16	5 5/8	4 13/16	9 5/8
12 M	7 1/16	4 5/8	7 3/16	4 1/4	5 5/8	4 13/16	9 9/16
2 Years	7 5/8	5 1/8	—	—	—	—	—
3 Years	8 1/8	5 3/8	—	—	—	—	—
4 Years	8 3/8	5 3/4	—	—	—	—	—
5 Years	8 5/8	5 7/8	—	—	—	—	—

Source: Finance and Credit Corporation

GOLD IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday 28 May 1986 were as follows:

18 ct.. JD 3.000 per gramme
21 ct.. JD 3.400 per gramme
24 ct.. JD 4.200 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 3,945.000

Ounce..... JD 130.500
Gold Sterling.... JD 28.500
(Central Bank)

Rashadi Pound.... JD 26.000
(Seven grammes)

Source: Yousif Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

EXCHANGE RATES

	buy	sell
US dollar	.356	.354
Sterling pound	.539	.532
German mark	.156	.154
French franc	.049	.047
Swiss franc	.189	.183
Dutch guilder	.139	.135
Italian lire (1000)	.230	.227
Swedish kroner	.048	.046
Saudi riyal	.097	.097
Kuwaiti dinar	1.198	1.194
UAE dirham	.096	.096
Egyptian pound	.192	.187
Syrian lira	.019	.019
Iraqi dinar	.320	.315
Omani riyal	.920	.915

Source: National Jordan Exchange Company

An exchanger's view

Continued from page 11

that, one must carry out a fair play," he expained.

Following the recent incident, there was a public outcry to limit and to restrict money exchanging business. "This is a big mistake, because money exchanging is a vital need in any society, particularly our society," he said.

The exchanger said that what controls the amount of local currency being exchanged with foreign currency is the current economic events. He stressed the importance of the fact that "we should concentrate on ways of how to increase hard currency inflow to the country as well as to reducing the volume of loans granted to the country to finance projects. Because high interests on these loans and the instalments to be repaid are what swallow the country's wealth," he concluded.

The Central Bank had earlier notified all exchangers and the general public regarding the permissible activities that exchangers can do. Particularly, it mentions that the operation of current accounts and deposits by the exchangers are officially prohibited because of the risks involved.

Export earnings increase in 1985

AAMMAN (Star) — Jordan exported JD 183.4 million worth of goods during the first nine months of 1985, as compared to JD 168.3 million for the same period in 1984.

Industrial exports constituted 57.8 per cent of the total exports, excluding phophates. Potash and phosphate fertilizers worth JD 21 million were exported during the review period. During the same period, phosphates brought in JD 45.7 million, accounting for 26.5 per cent of total national exports.

Imports during the same period amounted to JD 776.6 million, compared to JD 763. 5 million in 1984. The figures represent a trade deficit of JD 541.6 million for the first nine months of 1985.

Food imports in the first nine months of 1985 were woth JD 99 million, representing 12.6 per cent of the total imports. The other imported consumer commodities stood at 30.6 per cent of total imports.

A synopsis of international exhibitions

• NORTH AMERICA's largest west coast port is ready for inspection by the world's transportation managers during the Specialized Period on Marine Commerce, 21 July-2 August.

The port of Vancouver handles 56 million tonnes of cargo annually including bulk cargo of grain and coal, forest products, containers and passenger traffic, making it the highest tonnage port on the west coast of the Americas.

Port professionals will find demonstration of cargo vessels and cargo handling featured in the Vancouver harbour throughout the Marine Commerce period. The latest technology will be displayed including bulk and container carriers, roll-on roll-off, wind assist, two boats and urban passenger and vehicle ferries.

• THE EXPO '86 Specialized Period on Human Powered Transportation, 25-31, August will focus on the growing interest in new aerodynamic forms. The highlight will be the 12th Annual International Human Powered Championships, 25-31 August. Up to 150 competitors from North America, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland.

• TRUCKS AND INTERCITY buses is an International Symposium on Heavy vehicle Weights and Dimensions planned for 8-13 June. Delegates from Europe, Australia and North America will discuss current research in vehicle dynamics and pavement design. Key addresses will be made by Canada's Minister of Transport and the Minister of State for Science and Technology. (Expo '86 Newsletter)

TRANSPORT '86 is an International Trade Fair for Freight and Passenger Transportation. It starts from 10-14 June 1986, at the Munich Trade Fair grounds.

Running alongside the fair will be an International Transport Congress. (Transport '86 release)

• THE MIDDLE EAST MEDICARE '87 is a health care, hospital supplies, medical and laboratory equipment show and conference of the GCC states slated for 12-15 October, 1987, at the Bahrain Exhibition Centre.

An important feature of Medicare '87 is a major conference on urgent issues such as the establishment of codes of practice and methods of co-operation to improve health care standards.

(Exhibition Centre Bahrain release)

• ARABBUILD86 IS the fifth Middle East building and construction show and conference billed for 9-13 November, 1986, at the Bahrain Exhibition Centre.

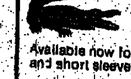
The conference will be on 'Traditional Architecture in Arabian Gulf.' A number of papers will be presented by the Bahrain Society of Engineers.

(Release of Arabbuild 86)

Europe's biggest heading machine

A TUNNEL-HEADING machine built by Mannesmann Demag in Duisburg (West Germany) sets new standards in sheer size and engineering. Weighing 500 tonnes, 19m long and with a 7.6 diameter drilling head, this is to date the biggest in Europe. The Demag giant will be used in Ecuador for drilling a 6.5 km long pressurized water gallery for the hydroelectric power station Paute on behalf of the national electricity supply company.

In contrast to roadway exploration by blasting, this machine, which is laser controlled, uses the full-section method. Turning the 45-bit drilling head allows a smooth, clean cross-section to be cut out of the rock. Depending on the hardness of the rock, a tunnelling speed of 300-400m monthly is achieved. The machine is operated by just one man; a mechanic and an electrician handle maintenance.



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A monthly supplement to The Jerusalem Star May 1986

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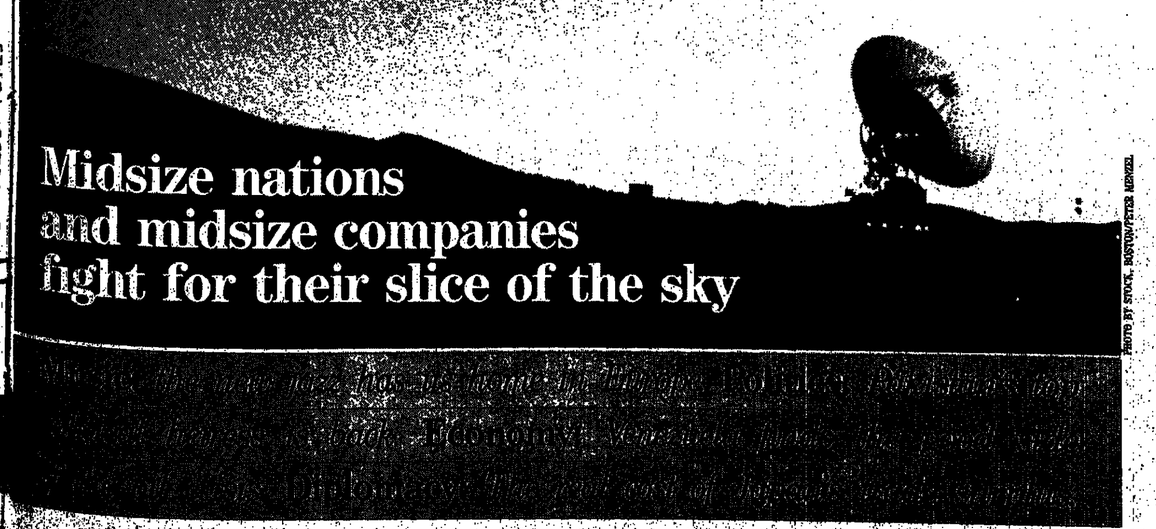

Midsize nations and midsize companies fight for their slice of the sky

PHOTO BY STOCK, BOSTON/PETER MENZEL

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WorldPaper

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NORTH AMERICA

[illegible]

Space, today, is for the civilians

Costs are down and demand is up, an ideal setup for private firms

By Jacqueline Grapin
Associate Editor for W. Europe

GENEVA, Switzerland—Space no longer belongs only to science fiction. It is already an industry. And despite the tragedy of the US space shuttle, which exploded on January 28, its development is irreversible. Too many interests are at stake.

The space-related industries are the industries of the future. Nowadays, Europe, Japan, Canada, China, India and Brazil are all going for their share of the space pie. Nations which do not want to be left behind have no choice but to join this fast-expanding space club. And the sooner the better, because membership is not limited to wealthy countries.

Numbers are available, but what do they really mean? According to the Aerospace Industries Association of America, US space spending in 1985 was already 70 percent higher than the spending for all civil aeronautic construction, from small private planes to commercial aircraft.

By itself, the cost of the Space Shuttle program amounts to US$16 billion, twice its original budget but still less than the Apollo Moon-conquest program, which cost about $25 billion. The US space platform project, which will call for contributions from European, Japanese, Canadian, and maybe other countries, will cost between $10 and $20 billion if limited to a working base, and up to $50 billion if it is to be used as a launching pad to the moon.

The US Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), often referred to as "Star Wars," has an official price tag of $26 billion for five years of research and development. But the Federation of American Scientists estimates that this "space shield" will probably cost $70 billion if it is actually implemented.

These figures are amazing. But should we believe the propaganda which, often indirectly, suggests such ventures are only within the reach of the world's two major military powers? More and more, the answer to this question is no. An era of major civilian spin-offs from the military activities in space has started.

If no single fortune has ever been found in space, it has already helped to make fortunes on earth.

The average cost of placing a kilogram of equipment in orbit could drop from $1,500 to $300 with the Columbia shuttle, which is capable of busing more than 30 metric tons. And it will keep going down. On July 4, 1982, President Reagan asserted that the US government "would provide a climate conducive to expanded private sector involvement in civil space activities."

US's Telstar 3 communications satellite: industries of the future.

The most important obstacle faced by NASA in developing its private commercial activities has been a psychological one. It had to create a special department and hire experts to encourage private corporations to "think space," a business concept totally foreign to them.

Such an education campaign is missing in many countries. This prevents the leaders of both the public and private sectors from launching even modest ventures in space, where the future instruments of domination of our planet are being assembled—not only militarily, but also economically and culturally.

Although it tends to be forgotten, most space industries are, and will remain, on earth. This means they are within the reach of many nations. The income from communication satellites, for example, already tops $15 billion. And its unequal distribution among nations does not stem from space-related causes.

Some countries, including France, decided from the start not to allow themselves to fall inexorably behind in the race for space. The Arianespace program used to be a laughing stock to American and Soviet leaders, but the laughing is over now. Arianespace has succeeded in launching, with its own rockets, more than half of the world's private satellites.

France spends about $700 million per year in space-related activities. It owns 60 percent of the capital of Arianespace, with West Germany owning 19 percent and Belgium four percent, while eight European nations have small participations which allow them a privileged access.

The current family of Ariane 1 through 3 rockets will soon be replaced by more powerful Ariane 4 and 5 rockets which will be able to place heavy satellites into orbit, as well as the future manned European space vessel, Hermes, a French initiative. Hermes, which should cost about $2 billion, will be financed by several European partners and its civilian applications will be wider than those of the US-supported "Star Wars" program.

Japan, on its own, has succeeded in less than 15 years in launching about 30 satellites, almost all of them with its own rockets. It will provide the US space station with an experimental module produced by a joint venture of ten Japanese firms at a cost of $800 million to $1.2 billion. And Japan's National Space Development Agency recently embarked [illegible] project to develop highly improved [illegible]ching rockets.

[illegible] even nations without their own [illegible]ts can, nevertheless, place satel[illegible] in orbit. This is the case with Mex[illegible] Australia, Indonesia and the Arab [illegible]es with Arabsat. They all have [illegible]n communication satellites, and [illegible]ometimes share them with their [illegible]ors, as ASEAN does.

[illegible] while preparing to place in or[illegible] own satellites (see story on page 4), [illegible]stalled equipment for the recep[illegible] processing and transmission of the [illegible] provided by foreign detection and [illegible]vation satellites.

[illegible] are currently about 60 satellites [illegible] (see chart). The launch of an [illegible] of 28 satellites per year between [illegible] and 1990 has been projected, with a [illegible] cost of $17 billion. If the causes of [illegible] shuttle accident can be determined, [illegible] may launch up to ten flights in [illegible]. But priority will be given to [illegible] missions.

[illegible] companies that were created to manufacture and launch the private satellites cannot afford to wait for hypothetical launches. This is a windfall for companies such as Transpace Carriers Inc., which will commercialize launches by Delta rockets at the ambitious pace of 13 launches before the end of 1989.

Space industry giant Martin Marietta can also launch satellites with the Titan rockets, which it developed for the Air Force when the military was reluctant to stake everything on the space shuttle. This way, the NASA accident would bring about a speeding up of the privatization of the launches, and, as a result, of space activities in the United States.

NASA had to hire experts to encourage private corporations to "think space."

The cosmos will not be the reserved hunting ground of large corporations such as Rockwell International, McDonnell Douglas or 3M any longer. Thousands of people in small companies which will owe their survival to space programs will have a stake in space developments.

Consultants, public relations firms, engineering firms and specialized magazines all will meet in profitable conferences to show that if no single fortune has ever been found in space, space has already helped to make fortunes on earth—including those of the cosmonauts who sell their memoirs and their advice.

Certain publications keep repeating that "tickets to space do not cost $50,000, but millions of dollars." But such is the case for all major investments, be they in conventional industries, public works or other. The goal is to design audacious projects and find adequate financing to create jobs. Operations that are profitable for US companies should also be profitable for companies from other countries, including state-owned companies in developing countries.

Even outside strict aerospace construction, space-related industries are becoming increasingly diversified. An interesting example is Astrotech International, in Pittsburgh, founded by a former NASA employee who realized that the number of satellites to be launched would rapidly exceed NASA's launching capabilities. His prediction has now been true for several years. Among his clients are AT&T, American Satellite Corp., RCA, and the Mexican and Australian national telecommunication agencies.

The marketing of space products such as data provided by satellites for weather forecasting, agriculture and vehicle guidance is another booming field. Mobile Satellite Corp. has collected $300 million in private investment to launch a satellite and operate a positioning system for private ships and trucks that will revolutionize the management of surface transportation. The company has a projected income of $1 billion after seven years in business.

Earth watch satellites such as the French SPOT and the US LANDSAT (see story on page 5), help create jobs on earth, whether by using the films and photographs received from space, the data churned out by computers or by managing such operations. The agriculture of developing countries could be totally transformed by these new processes.

Small businesses, sometimes unexpectedly, benefit from space activities. In Florida, a funeral firm appropriately called Celestis has been allowed by the US Department of Transportation to offer its clients the placement of their ashes in a satellite orbiting 3,000 kilometers from the earth, at a unit cost of $3,900. The remains of 10,000 people could be placed in a 150 kilogram satellite.

In the year 2000, out of $45 to $50 billion of sales directly related to space, some $25 billion will probably result from the manufacture of new materials in a gravity-free environment—of which $20 million will come from the sale of pharmaceutical drugs. Space-pharmacies, currently under study by McDonnell Douglas, Johnson & Johnson Battelle, and a few other companies, will by then have become real manufacturing facilities.

Consultants who have advised private companies for 20 years about the opportunities offered by space-related work or even work in space have been comparatively successful until now. Companies such as Instrumentation Technology Associates have often used NASA's "hitchhiker program," through which it is possible to send 1,000 pounds of materials in two flights, at no cost, with NASA reserving the right to use these experimental materials for its own purposes in a third flight.

The average cost of placing a kilogram of equipment in orbit could drop from US$1,500 to $300 with the Columbia shuttle

Of all the industries involved in the space business, the insurance sector is certainly the one that has benefited the least from it. The premiums, which were about 5.5 percent of the price of the satellites launched in 1983, reached 16 percent in 1984, and they keep increasing. In September 1985, the insurers had paid $263 million in damages, though they had received only $124 million in premiums. During the 18 months preceding the US Shuttle Challenger disaster, $600 million in damages were paid. This figure has obviously been far surpassed since then.

On the other hand, banks continue to observe new space projects with acute interest. They are aware that positions conquered in the space business today will be almost impossible to take over tomorrow.

Jacqueline Grapin is a columnist for the French daily Le Monde.

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It's not just the military. Now anyone can have...

Advances in technology and free-market competition have opened up an old monopoly

By Alexander Barnum
Special to WorldPaper

WASHINGTON—For decades, surveillance of the earth from space was the prerogative—and the responsibility—of the US and USSR intelligence and defense communities. But now advances in technology and fierce free-market competition have dismantled that monopoly.

An expanding demand for peaceful uses of earth-observing satellites, from agriculture to oil exploration and other resource management fields, has spawned a new generation of civilian satellites similar to the most sophisticated spy satellites.

At the cutting edge of this technology is Spot Image, a European firm owned primarily by the French space agency (39 percent). Its US rival—at a technological disadvantage—is Earth Observation Satellite, known as Eosat, a partnership between Hughes Aircraft and RCA.

The first SPOT (Systeme Probatoire d'Observation de la Terre) satellite, carried aloft by an Ariane rocket last February, is the world's most powerful commercial earth-observation satellite. Its cameras have already begun providing images three times more detailed than Eosat's.

It will detect any object 10 meters wide or larger—about the size of half a tennis court—the company claims. Military spy satellites, by comparison, are said to be able to detect objects smaller than a human body. Through computer synthesis of photographs taken at different angles, Spot can also produce a three-dimensional "side-view" of an area.

Speaking to a group of newspaper editors, CIA Director William J. Casey said: "I expect that large news organizations will have one of those (large satellites) themselves, one of these days."

The commercial availability of such technology has raised, for the first time, the possibility that civilian organizations and governments previously lacking access to spy satellites might use it for clandestine or even hostile purposes.

These fears are behind the recent questioning in the US of the "open skies" doctrine. Espoused by the UN in the late '50s and adhered to by both the US and the Soviet Union, it allows spacecraft, unlike aircraft, free transit over any territory on earth

"Open skies" also meant to ensure the non-discriminatory dissemination of data collected by civilian satellites; that is, satellite photos are to be made available to any and all who can afford them. Both Spot and Eosat have vowed to observe the tenets of "open skies."

C.P. Williams, president of Eosat, says: "We have a contractual commitment that says we must provide data to anyone in this world who orders it." However, according to a US law, the Land Remote-Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984, Eosat will distribute photos without discrimination, "except on the basis of national security."

But, US experts argue, that caveat is meaningless without control over Spot. And Spot's market development manager Nadine Binger guarantees: "Our policy is open access, open skies. We will never acquire an image and sell it to only one person. We will sell all our services on a non-discriminatory basis."

CIA's Casey commented recently that "There's nothing we can do about it. Anybody can go out and get any information they want." If one of the satellites "tries to overfly our airspace, we might try to prevent it," he said, but, in general, "we try to live with it and do what we can to protect our interests."

Alexander Barnum, former copy editor and reporter for the Washington Post, is now a free-lance writer in Paris.

An ambitious native program

Brazil hurtles itself into space

By Beatriz Bissio
Special to WorldPaper

RIO de JANEIRO, Brazil—The Brazilian space program was born in 1965—a year after the military took power—with the construction of the "Barreira do Inferno" launching station and the launching of the first "Nike Apache" rocket.

More than 20 years later, Brazil's goals are still very ambitious, including a "VLS" (Satellite Launching Vehicle) that should, in the early '90s, put into orbit four satellites for meteorologic observation and collection of data.

If it succeeds in launching its own satellite with locally made rockets by the early '90s—at an approximate cost of $850 million—Brazil will join India as the only Third World countries capable of controlling this advanced technology.

Brazil is 30 years behind the US and the Soviet Union, but it considers being able to manufacture by itself about 90 per cent of the parts a key decision. It would be impossible to move into the next phase of the space program without this capability.

Third World goes into space—again

Nice, France: the world's most powerful space camera reveals intricate harbor details.

Today, more than 200 local industries are manufacturing parts for the satellites and rockets, and a new launching site, Alcântara, is being built for the VLS project.

Alcântara, which will be operational in 1989, will have 120 million square meters—only a third of Cape Canaveral's surface, but ten times larger than the one used by the French in Kourou, French Guyana—and it will not be limited to Brazilian satellites.

Alcântara will also serve as a launching pad for satellites from other Latin American countries. Argentina is already interested.

It will also serve as a launching pad for satellites from other Latin American countries—Argentina has already expressed interest—and possibly even for the US space shuttle. Alcântara's runway, being close to the Equator, can make full use of the centrifugal force, launching objects into space with less effort, saving an estimated 27 per cent in rocket fuel.

The entire space program is run by the Brazilian Commission of Space Activities (COBAE), whose president is head of the armed forces joint-chiefs-of-staff. As a natural development of this space-military connection, rockets are routinely turned into missiles. Not only are missiles considered vital by the armed forces, given the country's large surface, but they are also being sold to several countries—by late 1985, orders for them had reached $300 million.

Two important factors, though, hinder the Brazilian space project: the economic crisis and the foreign debt burden significantly affect the state's investment capacity and the fact that the space program is being developed only by the military has alienated the program from rest of Brazilian society.

In November a new Constitutional Assembly will be elected, and the space program is one of the issues its members will debate. Many political leaders think the project must be reevaluated and even redesigned. They argue that, in its present form, it is a luxury item, too sophisticated for a country such as Brazil, which still has over 40 million people living in extreme poverty.

Beatriz Bissio is the editor of Cadernos do Terceiro Mundo, a monthly magazine with editions in Portuguese, Spanish, and English.

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Lauren: "Space is endless."

'We take it for granted'

New Zealand children look at space. Naturally.

By Children's Express
Special to WorldPaper

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—This is a story on children, by children. Children's Express is an independent international news service reported by children under 14, whose tape-recorded interviews and discussions are edited by teenagers and adults.

The news service's New Zealand bureau, set up a year ago by the daily Evening Post, has 21 reporters and 19 assistant editors working on stories that are syndicated world-wide through the Children's Express head office in New York.

The following story was edited by 16-year-old Assistant Editor Rachael Hennessey, under the supervision of coordinator Mike Regan, an adult. Taking part in the discussion are Jonathan Milne, 11; Richard Suhr, 12; Philip Gallagher, 13; Sarah Empson, 12; and Lauren Quaintance, 12.

Richard: In a couple of decades we're going to be able to travel (regularly) to the moon. We realize that we can do these sorts of things. We take it more for granted than our grandparents did. They still believe that some things are impossible, whereas we tend to think that in the future everything will eventually get conquered.

Jonathan: (But) it is going to be a long time before we are going to have travel agents saying "(US$200 off a trip to the moon" or something.

Philip: Space exploration is a good thing to have because it's like exploration of the earth. We didn't know everything about the earth, so somebody went out and explored it. Now we have got maps of it all, and space is heading in the same direction.

Jonathan: A generation ago, people who regarded science-fiction novels as realistic had vivid imaginations. Now you tend to think it may happen. There might be places on planets (for us) to live.

Sarah: Man has always been curious. If he hadn't been curious, we would still be in pre-historic times. He wouldn't have found out how to make cement or to write, or lots of things that we just take for granted these days. If people don't say "I want to be an astronaut," then nobody is going to do it.

Lauren: You can see by the (US Space Shuttle) Challenger disaster that we are not perfect and you know that there is going to be lots of people that are going to die in the process. I don't think anyone at my school would want to become an astronaut because it is such a dangerous job, though not as dangerous as it was 20 years ago.

Richard: The people that do the real work are the guys that work the computers and program the navigation. They never get any credit. They just do everything and get no glory, and the people that go up and operate the machines get all the credit. What's more, they probably only get to do it once.

Philip: People, when they are young, talk about being a policeman or a fireman. Now they are starting to say "astronaut." But there is a risk involved. Being a fireman and going into a burning house is a great risk but he can at least stop himself. An astronaut on the shuttle can't turn it back if he thinks something is going to happen. He's really got to carry it through. If something goes wrong—too bad.

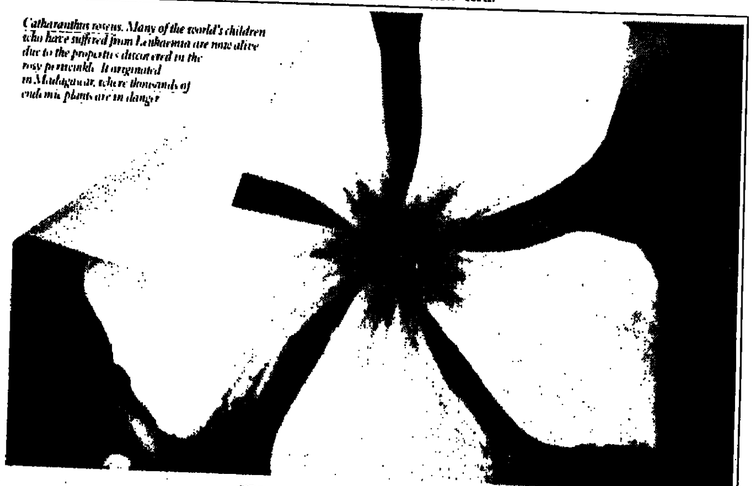
Sarah: It all comes back to the word "curiosity," and because people out there are willing to pay. They want to know what is going on and why the world goes around and what is happening in the universe. There are some people who think it's stupid and bury their heads in the sand—they just don't like spending money.

Philip: Like when I walked into this room. I wondered how this microphone we use is working. So I walked over and had a look. That's like an astronaut. He devotes his life to trying to work out space.

Lauren: The world doesn't desperately need to know that Pluto is so many million miles away or has such amount of gravity or dust on it. There is so much that needs to be done on earth. It's really good that we are finding out about space, but you will find Russia and America doing the same sort of research and then rushing to see who can get it done first. That's spending twice as much money on one thing. You could get two things done rather than having two countries trying to be big shots. Meanwhile, pollution on earth is getting worse and worse.

Sarah: I think they're spending a lot too much money on space exploration, but they should go on with it. They could spend more on things like helping other people, almost extinct animals and people who are starving.

Lauren: I think people are really scared of space and what can happen. You see all these horror movies with great big monsters and I'm sure it's not like that. Space is endless.



Catharanthus roseus. Many of the world's children who have suffered from Leukaemia are now alive due to the properties discovered in the rosy periwinkle. It originated in Madagascar, where thousands of endemic plants are in danger

Plants have fed the world
and cured its ills since life began.
Now we're destroying their principal habitat
at the rate of 50 acres every minute.

We live on this planet by courtesy of the earth's green cover. Plants protect fragile soils from erosion, regulate the atmosphere, maintain water supplies for agriculture and prevent formation of deserts. Without plants man could not survive.

Yet, knowing this, we are destroying our own life-support system at such an alarming rate that it has already become a crisis – a crisis for ourselves and an even bigger one for our children.

The figures alone should tell the story – we destroy a tropical rain forest three times the size of Switzerland every year; within 25 years only fragments of the vast Malaysian and Indonesian forests will remain.

What we are destroying

Much of the food, medicines and materials we use every day of our lives is derived from the wild species which grow in the tropics. Yet only a tiny fraction of the world's flowering plants have been studied for possible use. Horrifyingly, some 25,000 of all flowering species are on the verge of extinction.

Once the plants go, they are gone forever. Once the forests go only wastelands remain.

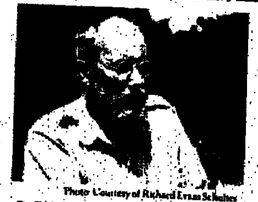


Photo Courtesy of Richard Evans Schultes

Dr Richard Evans Schultes, director of the Botanical Museum at Harvard University, has spent 13 years in the Amazon jungle collecting the 'magic' plants of myth and legend and making them available to Western medicine and science: "The drugs of the future," he says, grow in the primeval jungle."

Who is the villain?

There is no villain – except ignorance and short-sightedness. The desperately poor people who live in the forests have to clear areas for crops and fuel, but they are doing this in such a way that they are destroying their very livelihood.

Add to this the way in which the heart is being ripped out of the forests to meet the demand for tropical timbers and we have a recipe for disaster.

What can be done about it?

The problem seems so vast that there is a tendency to shrug and say "What can I do?" But there is an answer.

The WWF Plant Conservation Programme

The World Conservation Strategy, published in 1980, is a programme for conserving the world's natural resources whilst managing them for human needs. A practical, international plant conservation programme has been prepared based on WCS principles and is now well under way all around the world.

You can become part of it

The WWF Plant Conservation Programme is a plan for survival which you can help make a reality. Join the World Wildlife Fund now. We need your voice and your financial support.

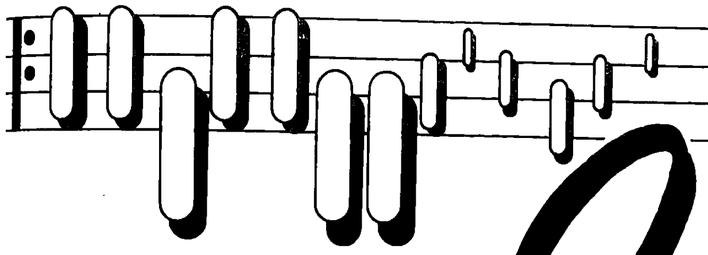
Get in touch with your local WWF office for membership details, or send your contribution direct to the World Wildlife Fund at: WWF International, Membership Secretary, World Conservation Centre, 1196 Gland, Switzerland.

Save the plants
that save us.

WWF FOR WORLD CONSERVATION

WWF acknowledges the donation of this space by WorldPaper. Advertisement prepared as a public service by Ogilvy & Mather.

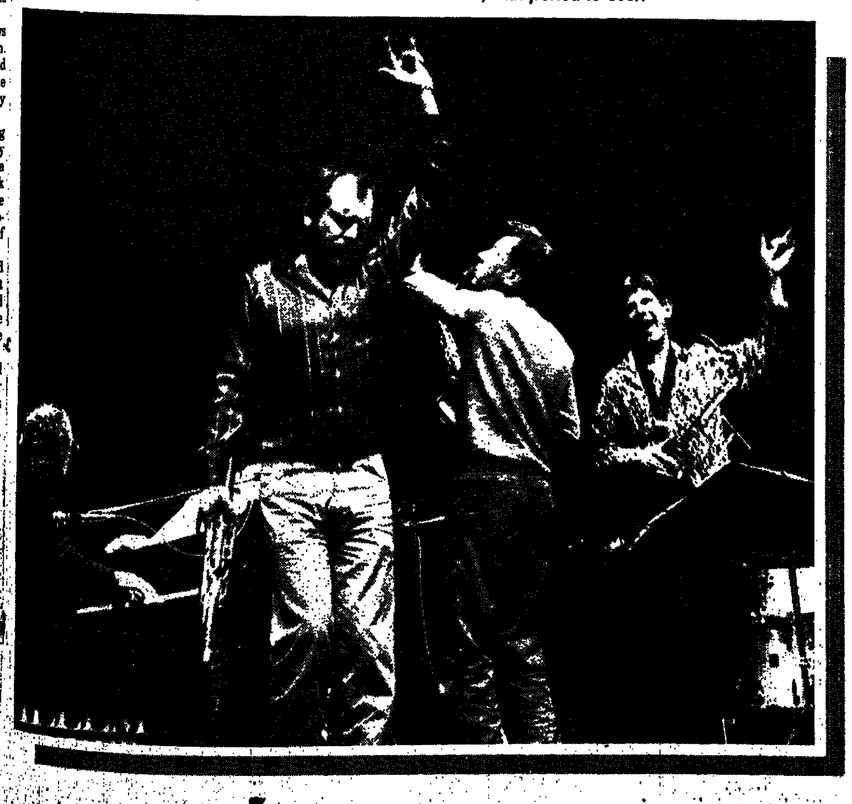
Art Farmer: "The music began in the US and the creative forces are from the US."



Europe breaks out the new.... Jazz

By Paul Keegan
Articles Editor
Photos by Art Illman

Willem Breuker and his Kollektief: "American musicians thought they were gods: 'Shut your mouth and listen to us.' Well, that period is over."



MONTPELLIER, France—Willem Breuker is in agony. The Dutch bandleader is writhing and twisting on stage as he plays an absolutely ridiculous saxophone solo that sounds like a cat in heat.

His band watches in mock horror as Breuker drops to his knees, points his squealing sax high into the air, then slowly rolls over on his back and begins kicking his legs like a baby.

The other nine musicians, anxiously waiting for Breuker to emerge from his self-absorption and cue them back in, nudge one another and follow him. Soon they are all on their backs, horns poised in their mouths, half-falling off the stage in a tangled row of arms, legs and microphone cords. The audience roars with laughter.

Meet the Willem Breuker Kollektief, an outrageous ensemble from Amsterdam that is out to completely change the way you think about music.

The Kollektief has been a huge success among the critics and the public alike in the small towns and big cities it has toured in North America and Europe since 1974. But its act is more than a series of Marx Brothers routines. Brueker, a musical miscreant if ever there was one, is also making some biting artistic and political commentary.

"I'm not interested in making straight music," says Breuker, "I want to kick it in the ass."

During its recent performance at the elegant Opera de Montpellier in the South of France, the band's merciless lampooning left no musical form unscathed, from Bach to the blues. But the main targets were clearly the clichés and pretensions of American jazz.

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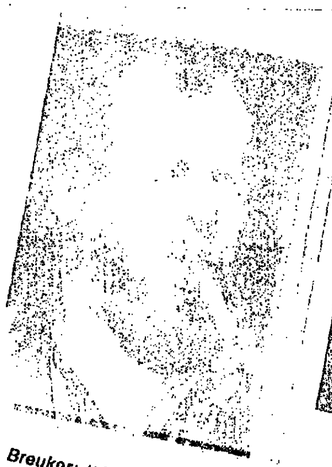

Breuker: "At first people say...

...'What's this? Am I mad...

...or are they mad?' "

continued from page 7

Underlying the joke about the self-indulgent jazz player ignoring his band to play a mindless sax solo, for example, is a comment about American stars who have dominated Europe's music scene since the 1920s, when Sidney Bechet, Louis Armstrong and others began touring here. Breuker is fed up with the still-powerful attitude that New York is the source of all contemporary musical creativity.

"It was a very long time before Americans accepted Europeans" as jazz musicians, says the bearded, 41-year-old Breuker. "They thought they were gods: 'Shut your mouth and listen to us.' Well, that period is over."

The new period does not merely consist of Europeans being taken seriously as jazz musicians—though the Kollektief and groups such as the Vienna Art Orchestra have certainly proven their mastery of the jazz dialect.

Rather, the Kollektief, when it isn't making fun of everything else, has developed its own alternative, a remarkable hybrid music that combines the precision of classical, the fun of folk and the freedom of jazz. Though American jazz is still widely popular here, Breuker's uniquely odd "roots" music, partly composed and partly improvised, is part of a growing reawakening by European musicians.

Says Breuker, "We are not copying any more. We are making our own music"

Bassano del Grappa, a tiny Italian town just north of Venice, will have nothing to do with worshipping American jazz musicians. It prefers to enshrine them. The jazz evangelist behind it all is Lilian Terry, founder of the Associazione Culturale Jazz Bassano.

"We're the only group in the world allowed to use Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet as its symbol," she gushes, referring to Gillespie's famous trumpet with the bell that projects out at a 45-degree angle. "When Dizzy is interviewed, he always says Bassano is his second home."

Terry, born in Cairo, is also founder of the Dizzy Gillespie Popular School of Music in Bassano and probably had something to do with the "Coppa Dizzy" ice cream offered at a local ice cream parlor. A jazz singer, she even recorded an album with Dizzy Himself in 1985.

In early March, Terry brought American expatriots Art Farmer (flugelhorn) and Johnny Griffin (tenor saxophone) to Bassano, where they brought the Italian crowd to its feet and cries of "Bravo!...Bravissimo!" with jazz standards such as "All the Things You Are" and "On the Trail."

Sipping Sicilian orange juice in a nearby cafe after the performance, Farmer sympathizes—to a degree—with the plight of European musicians. "You can't knock them for wanting to work in their own country. I'd like to work in mine, too."

Farmer is one of the legions of big-name American jazz players who was greeted with an enthusiasm in Europe that he never found at home. He moved to Vienna in 1968 and has lived there ever since. Now 58 years old, he began his professional career during the revolutionary be-bop era of the late 1940s, but today is considered a traditional player.

But when it comes down to the actual notes that are played, Farmer is not at all sympathetic to European complaints. "The music began in the United States and the leaders, the creative forces, are from the United States."

That evening's performance seems to bear him out. The government-sponsored Danish Radio Orchestra, an 18-piece big band, opens the show with an hour of predictable, lackluster swing arrangements.

At one point, saxophonist Jesper Thilo of Denmark ends an uninspired solo by quoting, note-for-note, this familiar riff: "Pardon me boy, is that the Chattanooga Choo-Choooooooo." He bows and the crowd erupts with the loudest applause of the night so far. It's a brilliant move right out of Willem Breuker's book. But the difference is that Thilo is *serious*.

Then, later in the evening, Griffin and Farmer are taking turns playing improvised four-bar phrases, or "trading fours." The band members are silently watching the masters play when their leader inexplicably walks up to the soloists and begins *conducting* them, waving his arms madly like a traffic cop, as if to say, "A little higher, now lower, ok, louder, a few more eighth-notes...."

If Bassano is a vivid example of the wild enthusiasm and lack of sophistication of Europeans trying to imitate American jazz, Farmer is asked, isn't it natural that groups such as Breuker's Kollektief would want to go in another direction, creating a new type of decidedly European improvised music?

Farmer doesn't buy it. "Since they're not creative forces (in jazz), they say: 'If we can't play the game by our rules, then we'll go over here and start a new game. We don't want to be judged that way.'

"They can't stand to be judged that way because they can't measure up to it. I think it's the second-raters who are crying, who are sore-heads. The guys who are really good players are too busy to cry.

"It could be just as bad for a jazz musician—and some do—to say, 'It was my people who started this music. This is our music. And you should dig it,' " says Farmer, who is black.

"I think that if they try to learn how to play better they might do better than by trying to politicize the whole thing. If you are a genius, you can get political, but these guys are no geniuses.

In Corbeil, a small town just south of Paris, the Willem Breuker Kollektief is relaxing at the bar of the Centre d'Action Culturelle Pablo Neruda. They have just finished a rousing three-encore performance and Bernard Hunnekink, the band's soft-spoken trombone player, is trying to explain why "most classical musicians in Holland don't like (Breuker). They hate him."

Hunnekink should know. He was a five-year veteran of the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra before helping form the Kollektief 12 years ago. "For example, he once wrote a piece for the Rotterdam Philharmonic that had a part for a cow," Hunnekink is saying.

"That was not a cow!" interrupts Breuker, glaring at Hunnekink, looking hurt. "It was a sheep.

"Actually, I wanted a tiger," Breuker says. "But that was too dangerous. So I wrote in the score that a farmer would walk in with a sheep and three little lambs. I also had a parrot on the piano squawking through the whole thing, giving his commentary on the music. As the farmer reached the door to leave, there was a very quiet passage being played and the sheep put his head up and said, baaaaaaaaaaan."

The band howls with laughter, even though they must have heard the story a hundred times. Actually, Breuker was only re-telling a story he heard from friends. Where was he during the performance? "At a bar," he says. "I'd rather be there than listening to that bullshit."

Back in 1966, when he was 22, Breuker won a prestigious music competition by performing an original composition entitled "Litany of the 14th of June" about a major clash between young Dutch protesters and the police. It was "the first time a piece of jazz or improvised music had something to do with politics" in Amsterdam, he says.

He became a hero to the radicals and an enemy of the establishment. "The next day it was on the front page of all the Dutch newspapers," he says. "And that gave me, from that time on, my name: the 'Enfant Terrible of Dutch Music.' "

Breuker seems to be against everyone and everything. "I think good music is a commentary on something," he says. "It always has something to do with politics, with what's happening in the world. If it's only there to be nice and please people, it's dead."

The Kollektief is anything but dead. Along with the more conventional Vienna Art Orchestra, it is being hailed in the music press as representing a new trend in European improvised music that is breaking away from the American jazz rooted in black slave history.

"I'm not really interested in Africa," says Breuker. "It's not my tradition. I was not brought over as a slave to the United States. I was not born in New York, I was born in Amsterdam, so my situation is completely different. I'm not imitating the Negro in Harlem."

Arjen Gorter, the Kollektief's outstanding bass player who has been playing with top jazz musicians for 20 years, says there has been "quite a deliberate move away" from American jazz.

"I think there's been a move toward applying the techniques of jazz and improvised music to your own tradition, your own roots," he says. "Or using any sort of material that exists in different music around the world and hash it through your own beef grinder and turn it into your own way of playing."

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Kollektief's Andreas Altenfelder: blowing an East German solo.

> The Kollektief, when it isn't making fun of everything else, has developed its own alternative, a remarkable hybrid music that combines the precision of classical, the fun of folk and the freedom of jazz.

In concert, the Kollektief uses the first set to show off its technical virtuosity and Breuker's frenetic original compositions. The pieces sound like several kinds of music shouting wildly at each other: marching band, circus, latin, jazz and classical themes race through the music with sudden tempo shifts and mood swings that leave audiences, European or otherwise, completely baffled.

"At first people say, 'What's this? Am I mad or are they mad?' " laughs Breuker. "I like to go from one branch of a tree to another, trees that have nothing to do with each other."

Breuker was involved in the thriving European avant-garde jazz scene in the late 60s and early 70s, but found those musicians uninterested in his theatrical or compositional ideas. So he formed the Kollektief in 1974 and starting his own record label, BVHaast, which to date has produced 47 albums, eight by the Kollektief.

Today, more than a decade after he introduced sheep to classical music, Breuker is still a much sought-after composer, recently commissioned by the city of Amsterdam to do another "original" violin concerto.

There probably won't be any animals this time, but "they'll get something terrible," he says. "I'll try to f-- them around as much as possible."

Breuker richly enjoys the fact that the city-funded orchestras have no choice but to play his bizarre compositions because the city arts councils, wanting to stay on top of the latest musical trends, commission him.

"Music is not just to play. It's to break down," he says. "It's not a holy thing.

continued on next page

A 'free jazz' sound for London and the planet

LONDON—Unlike the Willem Breuker Kollektief, British saxophonist Evan Parker does not play before giggling crowds of hundreds in elegant Opera houses throughout Europe. Only about 25 somber-faced fans showed up to hear Parker play recently at the "Bethnal Green Music Library—Laundry."

The reason is clear. Parker's post. Everybody sound is somewhere between metal pipes being screwed together and wet sneakers on a gym floor.

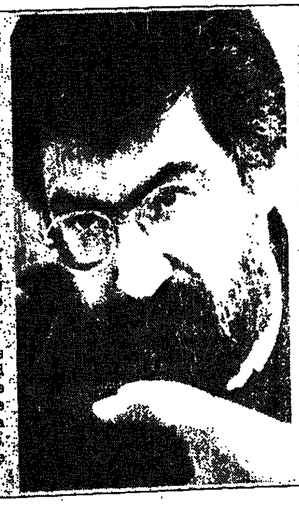
But Parker, a pioneer among "free jazz" pioneers expanding the limits of music by playing outside standard chord changes, is a key figure in the resurgent European jazz scene and a stark contrast to the politically charged Breuker.

If Parker's music is "weird," as he himself once jokingly described it, his personality is anything but. Wearing a crew-neck sweater and dark brown pants, the 42-year-old musician is able to describe his intricate music in simple and concise terms.

"The idea of a music representing a national identity is ridiculous. I'm interested in two scales of context: the neighborhood and the planet. Everything else in between, to me, is suspect.

"I'm attracted to other ways of thinking about music," he says, citing Indian, South American and Indonesian influences. "For example, a culture where they think you make music by singing into one another's mouths. Or a culture where they think, 'This is not music. This is what makes the plants grow.' "

Parker's main innovations are in his use of technical "special effects." Instead of simply playing one note at at time, he can give "the illusion of chords...a bit like playing the saxophone as if it were a piano." And, by breathing in as he blows, Parker can play phrases as long as he wants to without pausing for air.



Though most of these techniques are borrowed, Parker has refined and combined them to produce a language uniquely his own, "transform(ing) these sounds into a vocabulary...as familiar to him as major scales are to most musicians," wrote the US-based Village Voice in 1980.

The notion that Parker's sound will ever become "mainstream" would seems impossible after a few moments of listening. But even the great Louis Armstrong criticized all the "wrong notes" that be-bop genius Charlie Parker was playing in the 1940s. Today's wrong notes could be tomorrow's beautiful melodies.

"Of course there are lyrics and melodies in my playing," says Evan Parker. "They're moving a bit quicker, that's all. It's the same notes, the same instrument with the same buttons on it. It's just a different imagination. Different music from a different time."

—PAUL KEEGAN

Jazz

continued from page 9

Music is to have fun with, not to put on a pedestal."

Naturally, Breuker has not endeared himself to other musicians, who react to him with "a mixture of resentment and envy," says British saxophonist Evan Parker, a leading figure in today's European free jazz scene who played with Breuker in the 60s.

Because the Kollektief can find so much work, about 100 performances per year, "There is as feeling that, 'God damn it, I wish I could do that.'" Parker says. "But I think people also say, 'The Willem Breuker Collective? That's a bit of a contradiction in terms, isn't it?'

"Willem knows that if he packages the inside (musical) jokes with the right kind of obvious jokes, the whole thing will go over for a mass audience. That's the way he wants it pitched. Of course, he can sell that to leftist cultural administrations because its about 'the people.'"

The Kollektief gets political in its second set, a tongue-in-mouthpiece commentary that seems to argue that nearly all western music, from jazz to rock to classical, is badly played, tedious and unoriginal—but hilarious if you listen to it the right way.

"It's very nice to show how badly people play, how stiff they are. When I see a conductor doing this," says Breuker, gesturing grandly, "I say, 'Oh, be normal, huh?' But the audience says, 'Oh, man, he's *out* there, ooh, wow.' It's all comedy."

Audiences who have suspected all along they have been the victims of a musical con game relate instantly to Breuker's parodies.

"It was like they were musically winking at you," says Dominique Noel, a 28-year-old jazz fan from Montpellier after a Kollektief concert. "We need that. Most jazz musicians are too serious. It makes the music boring."

Audiences "realize certain things in life the next day when they look back," says Breuker. "At least I hope so. It's not only a story about music, it's a story about how to survive, how to live your life."

Giovanni Bonandrini

Occupying that flinder of ground between the American jazz evangelists and European heretics is a shy, 56-year-old Italian who sits in his sparse Milano office sliding a letter-opener back and forth inside an envelope he had opened 45 minutes earlier.

Giovanni Bonandrini only relaxes when he sees the chance to jump from his metal desk and change the subject from himself to the hundreds of boxes of jazz records piled high in his warehouse/office.

"You like Archie Shepp? Here, have an Archie Shepp record," he says, rummaging through the boxes. "And you *must* have this David Murray album."

Bonandrini gleefully stacks the arms of two near-strangers with free records from the jazz record labels he owns, Black Saint (named for the late American bass player Charles Mingus) and Soul Note. It's easy to see why both businesses lose money.

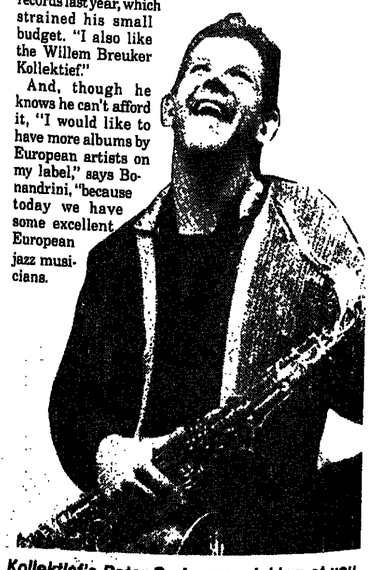
"It is not a matter of financial investment," says Bonandrini. "It is an investment in what you love."

The influential American jazz magazine, Downbeat, has named Bonandrini "Jazz Producer of the Year" for the last four years and Black Saint/Soul Note, "Jazz Label of the Year" for the last two years.

But even Bonandrini, steeped as he is in the American idiom, is quick to point out, "We have our roots, too. Europeans play in the language of jazz, but with another sensibility, with other traditions."

He would like some day to record Evan Parker, the British saxophonist. But Bonandrini must restrain himself. He produced 34 records last year, which strained his small budget. "I also like the Willem Breuker Kollektief."

And, though he knows he can't afford it, "I would like to have more albums by European artists on my label," says Bonandrini, "because today we have some excellent European jazz musicians.



Kollektief's Peter Barkema: winking at you

Europe, 86

J • A • Z • Z

Festivals

Germany/Nurnberg: Jazz East-West '86, June 12-15. *Flora Purim-Airto Moreira Septet,* ART FARMER-*Benny Golson Jazztet, John Scofield Group.*

Sweden: Stockholm Jazz & Blues All-Star Festival, June 27-29. *Albert King, Otis Rush, Paul Butterfield Blues Band.*

Switzerland: Montreux 20th International Jazz Festival, July 5-19. *Wynton Marsalis, Al Jarreau, Eric Clapton.*

England/Hertfordshire: Brackmell Jazz Festival, July 4-6. EVAN PARKER *with Freebop Septet, Jamaladeen Takuma, Loose Tubes.*

Finland: Pori Jazz Festival, July 5-13. *Lionel Hampton, John Mayall & the Blues Breakers, Wayne Shorter.*

France/Nice: Grande Parade du Jazz, July 9-19. *George Howard, Richie Cole, Al Harewood*

Italy/Perugia: Umbria Jazz Festival, July 11-20. *Pat Metheny, Manhattan Transfer, Buddy Rich Orchestra.*

Netherlands/The Hague: North Sea Jazz Festival, July 11-13. WILLEM BREUKER KOLLEKTIEF *Herbie Hancock, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers,*

Norway: Molde Jazz Festival, July 21-28. *Carl Anderson, James Moody Quartet with Johnny Griffin, Tania Maria.*

Spain/San Sebastian: 21st International Jazz Festival, July 22-27. *Miles Davis, George Benson, Don Cherry and Michel Portal.*

—Compiled by Steve Marks

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Currents

by Paul Keegan

A tragic phoenix, rising again from the trash

Whenever a garbage truck comes up the road toward the Highfield rubbish ground in Harare, Zimbabwe, scavengers begin jostling for position like soccer players in front of the goal. As the truck backs up, the agile ones jump inside and come tumbling down along with the garbage. They are the lucky ones who will find the best scraps that are not too badly decayed.

Harare and three nearby camps on the Zimbabwe border host thousands of refugees, many of whom are Mozambican political and environmental refugees. But the squatter problem was inherited from Zimbabwe's ousted white minority regime, according to the London-based environmental group Earthscan.

Residents of "Trashville," for example, are by now survivalist experts, erecting their plastic, sheet metal and cardboard homes around the garbage mounds. It became a mini-town, brewing illicit beer and distilling a potent liquor called "kachasu," while gambling and prostitution flourished.

Repeated attempts by Zimbabwe's government to destroy these villages has only sharpened the squatters' cunning suvivalist instincts. Trashville, for example, should not exist at all today since the government flattened it with bulldozers. In 1980.

Nice try

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo had a novel excuse for the judge after being caught speeding in Tel Aviv. His pedal was firmly pressed to the metal, he wrote to the court, because he "suspected that secret material" from his department had been left in his house "unguarded."

The judge was unimpressed. Milo was fined US$100.

BY KEN BOOSTROM

Self-sustaining Colombian bricks

Survivors in the Colombian town of Armero have had to cope with more than the physical destruction of their homes and the loss of loved ones. Since the volcano eruption last November that killed 22,000 of the town's 25,000 inhabitants, they have also experienced the deep psychological frustration of not being able to *do something* to put their lives back together.

"Many survivors are still living in tents, suffering from the terrible depression of having come through the disaster and being left with nothing to do," says Laurence Simon, president of the American Jewish World Service.

The group is attempting to solve both problems at once by employing 140 survivors to produce up to 12,000 bricks per day to rebuild their town. At a cost of US$120,000, "Bricks for Colombia" is a self-sustaining operation that is now being completely managed by the survivors, aided by a single Israeli volunteer.

A fertile market for contraceptives

What do India, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Thailand, Nepal, Mexico, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Egypt, Colombia and Sri Lanka have in common? Contraceptives.

These 13 countries, according to the UN Fund for Population Activities, have adopted the Contraceptive Social Marketing (CSM) program that subsidizes both prices and commercial-style promotion campaigns.

Controlled by the national governments, the program has been used in Bangladesh to set up sidewalk and door-to-door sales, and even rural health practioners have been trained to sell oral contraceptives. In India, vending machines have been installed. And retail sales have reached up to a third of the population in Egypt and Colombia.

Overall, CSM "can reach about five to 15 percent of all couples of reproductive age," says the US-based Population Reports magazine.

'...and, then, I reached for her soft bookmark.' Bookmark?

Last April 2nd would have been the 261st birthday of Casanova, that shy Italian librarian. Shy librarian? Oh, you blasphemous historical revisionists. Denegrate Auguste Renoir or George Washington if you must, but please leave legendary lover Giovanni Giacomo Casanova alone!

Unfortunately, it is true. He was a wimp, not a stud. According to Aldo Cella, the great-great-great-great grandson of one of Casanova's acquaintances, his family found a letter written by the Great Lover himself in which he acknowledges that he was "no Don Juan."

In the letter, dated June 1, 1798, Casanova downplays the legend behind his name: "It begins with an innocent kiss I gave to a 'signorina.' And my confessions to you, Il Grande, is that with the kiss, the legend (of) Casanova, it does end."

Cella claims Casanova, that licentious librarian, dreamed up those steamy stories of romance and that they have fooled his biographers ever since.

'Oh, we have just the thing for you, Mr. Stallone!'

In a store window in New York City hangs a old satirical Tshirt that was popular among anti-war protesters in the '60s: "Join the ARMY," it reads. "Travel to exotic distant lands. Meet exciting, unusual people. And kill them."

But it's the '80s, and anti-war protesters do not frequent this store. In fact, the sense of humor of its clients is a bit more twisted than the Tshirt's creator's. This store sells military clothing, and some items come with straightforward exhortations to kill people who are not American. The kind of place where Rambo might do his shopping.

UnderCurrent

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES EDWARDS

The Japanization of Japan?

Articles from the Japanese press suggest that 40 years after US General Douglas MacArthur handed them their new, "Western-style" constitution, some Japanese are turning back toward traditional Eastern religions, foods, medicine and ways of thinking.

Age-old vegetarian Japanese cuisine is becoming more popular, reflecting a rejection of the "aggressive" meat-eating diets of the West, says Tokutaro Tamai, director of the Japan School of Sushi and Japanese Cooking, in an article in the Yomiuri Shimbun.

Young people, meanwhile, are abandoning materialistic pursuits and turning to the occult, according to a poll by the Mainichi Shimbun. Beliefs such as the official state religion Shinto, which was dismantled by US occupation forces after World War II, are back in vogue. And various forms of "spiritual healing," once dismissed as mere superstition, "have made a strong comeback," writes Nobuhiro Nagashima, professor of social anthropology, in the Mainichi.

Perhaps the most devastating blow to Western ideas, however, came on Jan. 31 when Reader's Digest Japan closed down after 40 years of publishing, with their top circulation of 1.5 million having dwindled to 300,000. Their effort to print more articles about Japan was, as they say in the US, too little, too late.

Benazir Bhutto is not Cory Aquino

Pakistan's top political heiress loves to play hardball

By Ghazi Salahuddin
Special to WorldPaper

BOSTON, USA—After the Philippines, Pakistan. It offers all the ingredients: high drama, a steamy setting and a cast of thousands marching across the dusty plains of a country seemingly wedded to political turbulence. It even has a woman inheriting the mantle of a deceased leader, this time her father, to confront a strongman.

Indeed, the fall of Ferdinand Marcos has inspired Benazir Bhutto, the 33-year-old daughter of the executed former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. But the massive enthusiasm that greeted her return to Pakistan, in the second week of April, after two years of self-exile, could not immediately be translated into votes. No election is at hand in Pakistan.

Unlike Cory Aquino, Benazir Bhutto is not a reluctant leader. Unlike Benigno Acquino, her father was not a challenger, but himself the challenged prince, a controversial figure around whom all political activity in Pakistan has revolved during the past decade. Unlike Marcos, General Zia-ul-Haq has been haunted by his adversary from the moment he imposed Martial Law in order to seize power in July 1977.

Ali Bhutto's execution two years later, on charges of conspiracy to murder a political foe, was a manifestly political decision and sealed the country's polarization. Hence, the conflict in Karachi is more deadly and unpredictable than the one just played out in Manila.

Benazir Bhutto's return prompted the largest rallies in Pakistan's 39-year-old history. What is surprising, though, is not the support for the Bhutto cause but the atmosphere of political freedom in which this support was demonstrated. This kind of freedom is an aberration in Pakistan. No peaceful, democratic and constitutional transfer of power has ever taken place in the country.

The politician's daughter and the General are playing the lead roles but the real confrontation is between the late Ali Bhutto's charisma, in a populace yearning for change, and the ruling military. It is the Bhutto phenomenon which distorts the picture. It has intruded into personal lives, dividing families and friends. His execution, a traumatic experience for his supporters, led to a long mass bereavement. But he is equally intensely hated. The leader of Jamat-i-Islami religious party recently said that even a hundred executions wouldn't be enough for him.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became a federal minister in his early thirties, after General Ayub Khan imposed Pakistan's first Martial Law in 1958. He distinguished himself then as foreign minister. In 1966, after falling out with General Ayub, he founded the Pakistan People's Party. Using populist slogans, he promised structural changes, electrifying the populace of what was then West Pakistan.

In Karachi, the conflict is more deadly and unpredictable than the one just played out in Manila

Though he belonged to the landed aristocracy of Sind, a small province, he reaped vociferous support in the Punjab, where most of the army and senior civil bureaucracy comes from. Ali Bhutto led a popular movement against General Ayub only to end up in another Martial Law, this one imposed by General Yahya Khan.

This military regime, however, held elections in December 1970. But they precipitated the breakup of the country, after a bloody civil war and Indian intervention. What was East Pakistan became Bangladesh, because the army and the ruling class in West Pakistan, including Ali Bhutto, seemed unwilling to transfer power to the East Pakistani leader Shiekh Mujibur Rahman, whose party had won majority in the National Assembly.

After a humiliating defeat in East Pakistan, the army handed power over to Ali Bhutto, whose party had won a majority in West Pakistan. He then rallied the country, brought new hope and instituted reforms which were, nonetheless, not properly executed.

But his rule was seen as autocratic. He had no patience with the opposition. He made many enemies and when he announced elections for March 1977, an alliance of diverse political elements challenged him. When the People's Party won a surprising number of seats, the opposition, charging vote fraud, launched a movement in the cities.

Bhutto's execution, a traumatic experience for his supporters, led to a long mass bereavement. But he is equally intensely hated.

Once again, bloody riots led to another intervention by the army, and General Zia-ul-Haq, who had been appointed army chief of staff by Bhutto because of his professed loyalty to the civilian leader, assumed power as Chief Martial Law Administrator, promising fair elections in 90 days.

But the People's Party refused to die and threatened to return to power in the elections. The vote was postponed and Bhutto was arrested and charged with conspiracy to murder. A massive character assassination was undertaken, with all other political parties either watching passively or collaborating with the army for fear of Bhutto's return to power.

The verdict, many say, was manipulated. Several world leaders appealed to General Zia to spare Bhutto's life, but the execution took place in April 1979. By that time, the People's Party had been terrorized into inactivity.

The expectation that Bhutto's removal would finish the People's Party was proven wrong. He now acquired the halo of a martyr and his charisma was transferred to his widow Begum Nusrat and daughter Benazir, both of whom were kept under detention for most of these years.

When Begun Nusrat Bhutto became very ill and left the country for medical treatment, Benazir took over as party leader. The support for the People's Party gained strenght and, in 1981, joined other parties to form the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

General Zia's Martial Law, meanwhile, had brutalized the country. He had raised the slogan of Islam and won US support after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. Pressed to restore civilian rule, he first tried to legitimize himself through a dubious referendum in December 1984. Though many abstained from voting, General Zia claimed he had won a mandate to remain President for five years.

He then held partyless elections, amending the 1973 Constitution that was one of Ali Bhutto's great achievements, and appointing Mohammad Khan Juneno as Prime Minister. But a major change occurred on December 30, 1985, when Martial Law was lifted. For the first time in 20 years, the state of emergency was also lifted and fundamental rights were restored.

It took some time for the opposition to realize what was happening and start acting. They now demand a mid-term election on a party basis and the resignation of General Zia, who retains his dual posts of President and army chief of staff. With the army still apparently backing him, General Zia has rejected the demand for elections before 1990.

The rallies Benazir Bhutto has been able to hold underline the existence of freedom in Pakistan today. But the rallies themselves may block the restoration of a meaningful democracy, since they may encourage riots by racial elements still angry at the Punjab's domination.

Ghazi Salahuddin, news editor for the Pakistani daily Dawn, is currently on assignment in the United States.

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD
Benazir Bhutto: her father's mantle.

Aquino's strongly religious resolve

'When I have to go, I will.'

By Yoshiko Sakurai
Associate Editor for Northeast Asia

TOKYO—"No one is indispensable," said Corazon Aquino.

And so the new Philippine president, in her first interview with a Japanese journalist since taking power, reaffirmed her resolve to disclose not some, but *all* of the illegal business transactions by longtime dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

This tough talk, which persuaded the voters of the Philippines that time had run out on Marcos after more than two decades of dictatorship, is more than just political rhetoric. It is a particularly revealing hard-line stance because such a thorough investigation could reflect badly on some powerful members of her cabinet, whose support is crucial to the success of her fledgling presidency.

I was very much impressed with Aquino's firmness, delivered with gentle smiles, during our exclusive interview on April 10. Before meeting her, I was skeptical of her ability to manage the poverty-striken economy and even her own administration on crucial issues such as the communist New People's Army and the American military bases.

But, dressed in her usual yellow attire, her sincerity came through vividly. Though she can appear vague on specific policies, her selfless, religious devotion is clearly keeping the country together.

"The time will come when I have to hand (power) over," she said, convincingly stating that she had no personal desire for power. "Until that time, I would like to make sure that whoever takes over is free from the mess created by the previous administration. My task is to clean up the remnants."

Religion here in Japan is often seen as "vague" at best, and talking about God is like talking about other people's good will: there are few absolutes. And yet Aquino's comments about herself and her role in history shows that her resolve is strongly religious in nature.

Asked about the recent news that an assassin was stalking her in Manila, she calmly replied, "Well, when I have to go, I will. I am not saying I am not afraid. But if it is God's will, I will accept it."

It remains to be seen whether Aquino can weather the enormous political and economic problems before her and the Filipino people. Or whether internal conflicts with such powerful cabinet members as Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile will prove more than she can handle.

But it remains clear that it is only because of her that the Philippines today is able to keep its balance between the conflicts that rage on all sides. And that, her main accomplishment, is secure.

Yoshiko Sakurai is co-anchor of the leading television newscast in Japan.

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD
Cory Aquino: cleaning up the remnants

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Commentary/By Carlos Rangel

The good side of the oil crisis

Venezuela forced to put its economy in order

CARACAS, Venezuela—My country is one of OPEC's 13 members. As such, today it is on the losing side of the new oil shock.

Projected revenue from oil exports has had to be revised downward from over US$12 billion to less than $8 billion (it was $21 billion at the 1980 peak). And this comes just after the country has reached a rescheduling of $22 billion in foreign debt, which would imply an annual servicing of nearly $5 billion. This is the amount that has now been lopped off the foreign earnings by the collapse of oil prices.

Yet one does not hear anguished cries about Venezuela or, indeed, from Venezuela. It is true that the two governments that ruled between 1974 and 1984, reaping the two successive windfalls of the '70s, squandered them and let foreign banks push into their hands an additional $30 billion in short-term debt.

Today's government, however, though unable to borrow another cent, has managed in only two years to redress the balance of payments, increase foreign reserves to $13 billion and hold inflation down to less than 20 percent annually.

The currency, which used to be wickedly overvalued at 4.30 bolivars to the dollar, is now officially pegged at 7.50 to the dollar, and most of the vastly reduced imports do enjoy that rate. Wisely, the government also allows Venezuelans and foreigners to buy and sell currency freely.

In that free market, the dollar has climbed to about 20 bolivars, which makes Venezuela a very attractive place to travel to. The country may yet earn in tourist revenue at least part of what it has lost in oil exports.

This is, then, no Nigeria or even Mexico on the verge of simply having to walk away from their foreign debt. But the pain has been sharp. Real wages have shriveled while prices climb. Unemployment is above 15 percent and risks going higher unless the economy can be revved up.

Not the least paradox of the stupendous oil revenues was that Venezuela's non-oil economy stopped growing. Easy dollars encouraged a flood of cheap imports that discouraged domestic investment and production. Actually, even the advanced economies of Great Britain and Norway experienced this perverse effect.

Venezuela is an atypical member of OPEC: a non-Arab, non-Islamic, Western democracy. But the very idea of OPEC was born here, in the mind of the late Juan Pablo Perez Alfonzo, a brilliant and intense man who early in life decided that, since his country depended so much on oil, he would learn all there was to know about the intricate, ruthless world oil industry.

He found there was no such thing as free-market prices for oil, that oil prices were managed by what mounted to a cartel of seven great multinational corporations (the "Seven Sisters"). He also discovered that the cartel maximized its profits by paying very low prices at the production site, and adding value and cost—and profit—in downstream operations. These operations started at the time the crude left the oil fields and continued all the way through the refining process and the delivery of finished products to the consumers.

Perez Alfonso had been deeply impressed by the book, "Our Plundered Planet." He became an ardent conservationist, which gave added fire to his outrage about the "Seven Sisters" operations. Not only were they exploiting the poor, they were also inducing the rich to squander one of nature's most precious non-renewable resources.

As Oil Minister of Venezuela in 1959, he brought Sheik Tariki, his Saudi counterpart, to share his analysis and his passion. OPEC was born soon after, with the purpose of doing a little price-fixing of its own and with the banner of oil conservation as a duty to all mankind. In this respect, which is not usually taken into account, OPEC has been spectacularly successful—to its own regret.

When OPEC found itself able to manipulate the market in the short term, it let greed run away with it. Thus, oil conservation was achieved much sooner than was thought possible. In a few years, OPEC lost half its share of the world market.

In Venezuela, pride in having been the originators of OPEC stemmed overt criticism of its mistakes for a while. Now the cat is out of the bag. We now realize OPEC could not have been more than the sum of its parts: governments as unwise as is shown by the Iraq-Iran war, or by the different but equally lethal flaws of character of Saudi princes and Moammar Khadafy.

As for our country, it is no longer as superficially rich as it appeared to be in 1980, but it is much less poor and much more developed than it was before oil. We do need a new rescheduling of our foreign debt, since with present oil prices we cannot pay the $5 billion lost annually in foreign earnings. But we are confident that we will get the debt rescheduled and that with a little luck, oil prices will stabilize at a level we all can live with.

Carlos Rangel is a news columnist and co-anchor of a daily television interview program in Caracas.

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WorldDiary/By Crocker Snow, Jr.

The real cost of the trade surplus

It's a big time for Japan just now, politically and ceremonially.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the nations' most active and high-profile political leader for a generation, is putting his best leadership leg forward on the eve of a national election. He is engaged in a series of eye-catching, pride-swelling events in a country prone to ritual, events that can only boost his hopes for another year in office before the curtain of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) politics closes upon him.

First there was his whirlwind trip to Washington in early April for his 8th face-to-face summit session with US President Ronald Reagan. This one was special; Nakasone was the first Japanese prime minister ever honored with a visit to the presidential private retreat at Camp David.

Then, in rapid succession, Nakasone presided over traditional ceremonies marking the 60th Year of Showa, the reign of aging Emperor Hirohito, hosted the economic summit of western leaders and welcomed Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Diana on their first visit to Japan. This all represents symbol more than substance, a reminder to Japanese voters, and particularly the mugwumps of his powerful LDP party, that Nakasone-san is their best and brightest in the increasingly important world of foreign affairs.

But Tokyo's current sound and light show, this explosion of political ceremony in a land conditioned to tea ceremony, cannot obscure the fact that the Japanese people are engaged in a bittersweet struggle with their own abundant success.

Japan's mammoth 1985 trade surplus of $46 billion with the US—her largest trading partner—and her lesser surpluses with most of the neighboring nations of Southeast Asia are, ironically, the burdensome economic cross that the Japanese people must bear.

A fresh reminder of this came at the time of Nakasone's visit to Washington, which took place during a long-planned conference of US and Japanese journalists.

This was an insider's group, senior editors and commentators of major US and Japanese newspapers with long experience—and empathy—with the "other side of the Pacific." Given such a group, it was noteworthy that the discussion didn't move far beyond the hackneyed subject of trade and the day's news that Japan had recorded its largest surplus ever and the US its largest deficit.

A onetime economic counselor in the US Embassy in Tokyo provided a useful reminder that trade surplus doesn't necessarily spell success. "The old mercantilist view is that it's good to export and bad to import," said Philip Trezise, currently senior fellow of the Brookings Institute. "This persists today. When trade figures are announced, the country with the surplus is seen as a winner, the one with the deficit, a loser.

"It isn't readily understood that the outsized US deficit has brought major economic benefits for Americans, in fine Japanese consumer products, for instance. And Japan's surplus involves important costs for the Japanese, even in their own standard of living. So who's really the winner and who the loser?"

A point well taken. And the distinction becomes still fuzzier when geo-political considerations are factored in. The impact of Japan's robust trade surplus can be felt in her dyspeptic foreign policy. Indeed, Tokyo pays the price of this surplus with a passive, follow-the-Washington-lead brand of diplomacy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAPANESE CONSULATE OF BOSTON

Can ceremony sustain Nakasone in office?

Consider the evidence. For the last 25 years, since the 1960 anti-American riots in Tokyo over renewal of the US-Japan Security Treaty, the government of Japan has allied itself closely with most major US foreign-policy initiatives.

In the 1960s, Japan was passively supportive of US involvement in Vietnam. In 1971, after being acutely embarrassed by Nixon's unannounced initiative with Communist China that created a "Nixon Shokku," Japan Prime Minister Tanaka quickly followed the US lead by normalizing relations with Beijing. In 1980, Tokyo followed the Washington boycott of the Moscow Olympics, due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, by doing the same.

Of recent vintage, Japan, with a far larger economic stake in the Philippines than the US, stood mute while Ferdinand Marcos tried to steal the election there—and then quickly followed the Washington turnaround by supporting Cory Aquino. Since then, Tokyo has been flooding Manila with spiritual succor and financial support. And today, like West Germany, Japan is ready to buy into Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), with a number of Japanese companies signalling their interest in SDI research and development.

America's worthy ambassador to Japan, former Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, is fond of saying that the US-Japan relationship is America's "most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none." What is left unstated is the quarter-century truth that this relationship involves a clear and simple trade-off: economic advantage on the one hand for political acquiescence on the other.

Letters

Let's try to get it right this time

All of us at The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Inc. appreciate your article, "Be an artist, Starve no more," which appeared in the February issue. Unfortunately, our Post Office Box number was incorrectly listed. It should read: "Grant applications are available from The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 4957, New York, N.Y. 10185."

Thank you for sharing this correction with your readers.

—Charles Bergman
The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Inc.
New York

It is Hyponica

In the November 1985 issue of WorldPaper, there was an item about a 20-foot-tall cabbage and other vegetables. The Japanese farmer, Mr. Nozawa, did this using the Hyponica method.

Our company is an agribusiness firm in the Philippines and we believe that this method will greatly benefit the people in our country.

—Ludette C. Javier
Manila, Philippines

Wanting to write to Ronald Reagan

I am an 18-year-old Malaysian. I am a great fan of the United States of America's president. I will be very glad if you would give me the address of the White House, where Ronald Reagan lives.

—Miss Ninderpal Kaur
Perak, Malaysia

The president's address is the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500. —Ed.

Dangerous technology invading homes of the future

Congratulations on the interesting WorldPaper issue on TV ("A Medium in Search of a Message," February, 1986). I have no doubt that man's achievement in technological advances is really changing his customary perceptions of distance in the mechanics of transport and communication.

What is most disturbing is the fact that the role of TV in changing the cultures of different races in many nations of the world, such as in the case of the Indians in the Amazon. And with the advent of the dish antennae, I think it is a mistake to let any of this technical wizardry to invade future homes.

—Dean Hon
Khor Pahang, Malaysia

Necessary and urgent

In keeping with the high professional standards of WorldPaper, your special section on AIDS (November, 1985) was necessary and urgent. A lot has been misrepresented about the issue and several questions have not been answered in different parts of the world.

Regular readers like myself are accustomed to your responsible coverage of these kinds of important topics.

—Yolanda Narvaez
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JORDAN FINANCE HOUSE	[illegible]	[illegible]	- .012
ISLAMIC INVESTMENT HOUSE	[illegible]	.840	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	[illegible]	[illegible]	
JORDAN INVEST. & FINANCE	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ .015
ISLAMIC BANK	[illegible]	[illegible]	- .008
JORDAN-KUWAIT	2.130	2.130	
HOUSING BANK	[illegible]	[illegible]	.012
NATIONAL FINANCIAL INV.	1.200	1.200	
ARAB BANK	[illegible]	175.000	
JORDAN GULF BANK	[illegible]	[illegible]	.02
FINANCE AND CREDIT	.860	.870	+ .011
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	.600	.660	- .029
INDUSTRIAL DEVT. BANK	[illegible]	[illegible]	.014
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	[illegible]	29.250	- .025
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INTERMEDIATE PETROCHEMICAL	.650	.640	.015
CERAMICS INDUSTRIES	.760	[illegible]	+ .01
JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ .007
[illegible] INDUSTRIES	.500	[illegible]	
JORDAN LIME & SILICATE BRICK	.250	.260	+ .04
JIMCO	.590	.600	+ .016
NATIONAL STEEL	1.200	[illegible]	+ .008
AL INTAJ	1.630	[illegible]	- .024
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	.800	.790	.012
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING	.300	.300	
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENT	4.300	4.300	
CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	.990	1.000	+ .01
JOWICO	1.150	1.150	
JORDAN TANNING	1.740	1.800	+ .034
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	.550	.550	
JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	3.050	3.000	.012
JORDAN PHOSPHATES MINES	2.140	2.100	- .014
MINERALS EXCAVATIONS	.950	1.000	+ .05
INSURANCE			
REFCO INSURANCE	.960	.940	- .02
JORDAN-FRENCH INSU.	2.540	2.580	+ .015
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	.950	.950	
JORDAN INSURANCE	10.500	10.250	- .023
ARAB INSURANCE	.800	.800	
PETRA INSURANCE	.550	.500	- .09
JORDAN-GULF INSURANCE	.800	.800	
HOUSING			
AGARCO	.610	.610	
GENERAL			
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER CO.	1.500	1.500	
ARAB INT. HOTELS	.380	.380	
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING	.680	.710	+ .044
JORDAN LEASING CORP.	.680	.690	+ .014
PETRA ENTERPRISES & LEASING	.700	.690	- .014

IN BRIEF

By Ahmad Shaker

- AMENDMENTS ARE to be made to the constitution of the Amman Stock Market to comply with the requirements of the present economic situation.

- A SPECIAL council of the private and public sectors will be set up to consider ways of boosting exports by foraging into new markets and improving local products to meet export requirements.

- THE CABINET is to hold a special session on the economy and trade conditions in the kingdom.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited the cabinet and met with the Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and a number of ministers. Discussions focused on the financial and economic situation in Jordan.

- NEW PROJECTS will be suggested during the second expatriate conference in Amman next July. The government will consider a means of ensuring a minimum level of profits for the contributors in those projects.

- THE GOVERNMENT is to allocate a plot of land near Amman to be sold to the Jordanian expatriates. The project aims at establishing a housing complex for expatriates.

- THE COMPENSATION given to the shareholders of the Jordan Woods Company, which was recently liquidated, ranges from 25-40 per cent of the nominal value of the shares.

British Airways grosses £183 million profit

AMMAN (Star) — The British Airways has announced a pre-tax profit £183 million for the year ended 31 March, 1986, with turnover at £3149 million. The previous years pre-tax profits stood at £168 million.

In a release, the airline said that the volume of scheduled traffic during 1985/86 increased over that for the previous year by 6.7% in terms of passengers and 7.7% in terms of revenue passenger kilometre. Cargo and charter operations were reported as buoyant during the period.

Polaroid unveils new system

AMMAN (Star) — A new system of amateur photography producing rectangular instant pictures rivalling the colour quality of 35mm conventional photography, was unveiled in Los Angeles recently, by Polaroid Corporation.

The new Polaroid photography system includes a lightweight camera, a new self-developing film, a range of accessories and a new laser copy print service.

In the Middle East, Polaroid's new system of photography will be introduced in the last quarter of 1986, and will be marketed under the name "Image".

Air France ups profits

THE GROSS profits of Air France reached FF 1,100 million in 1985, compared to FF 650 million in 1984. Net profits amounted to FF 700 million, as against 533 million the previous year.

The general improvement in the financial situation is attributable to the fact that passenger and goods traffic continued to grow, notably, towards Asia, with significant progress on lines serving Japan and China.

Air France's plans include the acquisition of new aeroplanes this year and the opening of new lines.
— L' Actualite en France

King Fahd inaugurates Riyadh expressway

RIYADH (OPECNA) — The 317 km Riyadh-Qassim Expressway, part of a huge transportation scheme linking Saudi Arabia's remote areas, has been inaugurated by King Fahd.

The $44 million facility, serving more than 60 cities and villages, will be an important artery in the Kingdom's modern road network.

It will connect the Qassim agricultural region with the rest of the country and facilitate the flow of increasing traffic.

UAE urged to bolster national industry

SHARJAH (OPECNA) — The United Arab Emirates' government is being urged to give priority support to national industry to help offset the impact on the economy of declining oil revenues.

The call comes from Sharjah Emirate's Economic Department, which says "innovative" methods are needed to boost the industrial sector's important role at both economic and social levels.

In a study, the Department says government support should come in various direct and indirect forms, including active participation in planning, setting up and operating projects.

Stock Exchange

Prices decline

By Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star-Financial Market Analyst

THE VOLUME of trading generally improved during the week while share prices slightly declined. No big deals were registered and the demand for the shares of the industrial companies has sharply diminished.

350,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 655,000 divided among 557 contracts, an increase of 8.1 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average came to JD 164,000 with a deviation of 14.4 per cent or 6.1 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating stability at the market.

The shares of 56 companies were handled from which 17 companies gained including:

1- Mineral Mining Company	closing at JD 1.000 up from JD .950
2- Nationl Marine Lines	closing at JD .710 up from JD .680
3- Jordan Lime and Bricks	closing at JD .260 up from JD .250
4- Jordan Tanning Co	closing at JD 1.800 up from JD 1.740

20 companies lost including:

1- Petra Insurance Co	closing at JD .500 down from JD .550
2- Bank of Jordan	closing at JD 18.750 down from JD 19.300
3- National Portfolio	closing at JD .660 down from JD .680
4- Cairo-Amman Bank	closing at JD 29.250 down from JD 30.000
5- Al Intaj Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	closing at JD 1.590 down from JD 1.630

19 companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 130,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 35,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sectors according to the following percentages:

Sectors	Market share	Last week's share
Banks	67.3%	58.8%
Industry	18.6%	21.5%
Services	4.7%	6.2%
Insurance	9.4%	13.5%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded by sector

	Share of sector	Share of market
Banks (out of 21 traded)		
1- Arab Bank	44.2%	29.7%
2- National Bank of Jordan	14.8%	10%
3- National Financial Investments	8.7%	5.8%
Industrials (out of 24 traded)		
1- Jordan Petroleum Refinery	54.4%	10.1%
2- Arab Aluminium Industries	9.4%	1.8%
Services (out of 4 traded)		
1- Jordan Electricity Co	52.9%	2.5%
Insurance (out of 7 traded)		
1- Refco Insurance	64.6%	6.1%

Weekly Average

Dates	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industries	Average
20-5	-.2%	-2.6%	+.2%	+.1%	-.2%
21-5	+.1%	-.5%	+.5%	+.2%	+.1%
24-5	-.2%	-.3%	-.3%	-.2%	-.2%
26-5	-.5%	-.5%	-.4%	+.7%	Zero
Total	—	—	—	—	-.3%

What is next, a petrochemical war?

Arab petrochemical output rose from less than half a million tonnes in 1981 to 5.3 million tonnes in 1985, and earnings already are in billions of riyals. With European and US producers lined up against the efficient new Gulf operations, a global battle seems set for lucrative Asian and other new markets.

GENEVA, Switzerland — While the headlines focus on the battle for dominance of the global oil markets, another contest is underway in the important petrochemicals sector — the heart of some of the world's most profitable and crucial industries.

Powerful vested interests in the United States and Europe are lined up against new and cost-efficient operations of the Arab Gulf states in an intriguing game of "petrochemical chess" that in recent months has moved toward a stand-off.

Saudi Arabia alone expects to earn four billion riyals ($1.1 billion) annually when all its plants come on stream, and it is ready to take tough action to protect such a high level of income.

But the European Community is adamant that tariffs will be imposed to keep its own petrochemical industry competitive.

Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Co-operation Council partners — Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — face a 13 per cent duty as soon as they sell petrochemicals worth a few million dollars in Europe. The Gulf states have suggested that EC countries would not welcome similar tariffs on their massive exports to the Gulf.

Negotiations have been long and complex. Most of 1985 was taken up in talks before the Gulf petrochemical producers finally persuaded the EC to revise its policy of automatic introduction of tariffs whenever Gulf petrochemical

> **Board Chairman of Gulf Petrochemicals Industry Company, Dr Tawfeek al-Moayyad, said foreign markets were crucial. "There is sound reason for Tunisia and Jordan, which manufacture chemical fertilizers requiring ammonia, to import their needs from the Gulf due to its proximity," he said.**

exports overshot their duty-free ceilings.

"We will consult the Gulf petrochemical producers whenever problems arise over their exports," an EC official in Brussels promised.

But a spate of duties imposed last January suggested the EC concession was little more than symbolic. Talks reached an impasse and relations over petrochemicals became as strained as they are about oil.

Officials in Riyadh say the monetary value of allowed imports is not high. For instance, methanol was raised from $293,500 in value to $3.8 million, ethylene glycol from $627,100 to $1.25 million and polyethylene from $6.99 million to $7.56 million.

"It seemed fine to the Europeans for us to build the plants," said one Saudi official who asked not to be named. "Then, of course, they were earning big money from contracts. But apparently it is not all right for us actually to sell the products in the market if it takes business away from them."

Analyst John Cranfield noted in the authoritative journal Petroleum Economist that in the six years since work began on the Saudi projects, reduced economic activity, cheaper fuels and non-oil derived consumer products had eaten into the world market.

"Now the industry plants are slimmer and can see profits on the horizon again after a few really traumatic years. They are none of them in the mood to give up the struggle of the last decade just as victory is in sight. Hence the substantial opposition to Saudi imports."

Cranfield noted that Saudi petrochemical production costs are not much lower than those in Europe, Japan or North America. Sales at anything less than market price are seen in many areas as "dumping." Already the EC perceives the Saudi gas price (50 cents per 1,000 cu ft to petrochemical producers) as a hidden subsidy.

According to Industry and Electricity Minister Abdulaziz al-Zamil, Saudi Arabia earned two billion riyals ($500 million) from petrochemical exports in the 10 months to November 1985.

Ibrahim Ibn Salamah, Managing-Director of the Saudi Basic Industries Company (SABIC), told a recent convention in Al Khobar that the kingdom's petrochemicals

By Latifa Ali
Compass News Features

might have a lower price, "but it is the economic price of our resource, which simply reflects our cost advantage."

Saudi Arabia had no alternative but to use that advantage and could not accept others' concept of a "fair market value" as a yardstick. Salamah said the kingdom's huge investment in infrastructure and services could not be termed subsidization because they did not serve the petrochemical sector exclusively.

Saudi Arabia had spent nearly $286 billion on its development projects in 15 years and $123 billion on infrastructure alone, he said.

Some $16 billion had been spent on two new industrial centres in Jubail and Yanbu, "of which petrochemicals is only a part." Saudi Arabia, he stressed, believed in profitable co-operation with fellow producers. Industry had a choice between conformity and confrontation, and "borders should not be turned into barriers."

Industry Minister Zamil said European exporters would reap a richer harvest from their Gulf markets if they withdrew unilateral tariffs on Gulf petrochemical exports. It would be "unfair if Saudi Arabia is not accorded the same treatment it extends to others," he said. Zamil confirmed that SABIC planned to establish 14 new industrial complexes by 1990. They would cost $16 billion and would add another 3.75 million tonnes of complementary capacity to SABIC's production potential.

Along with the disclosure that combined Arab petrochemical output in 1985 rose to 5.3 million tonnes from only 435,000 tonnes in 1981, this was bad news for the old-established producers of Europe and North America.

Zamil recently announced that Saudi Arabia expected to net some four billion riyals ($1.1 billion) annually from petrochemicals when all of SABIC's companies are fully commissioned.

The competitive challenge to Western producers was underlined at a conference in Bahrain by Gulf experts who said there were still several kinds of petrochemicals being under-produced by Arab concerns despite demand within their own market.

They advocated integrating Arab oil-based industry across the board — from the oil well to plastic bags. "The intention is to utilize the demand on the local market,"

> **Saudi Arabia had no alternative but to use that advantage and could not accept others' concept of a "fair market value" as a yardstick. Salamah said the kingdom's huge investment in infrastructure and services could not be termed subsidization because they did not serve the petrochemical sector exclusively.**

said Abdullah al Moajil, Secretary-General of the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).

Arab officials said such plants could replace imports from industrialized countries. They had at least the right to meet Arab demand without worrying about impact elsewhere.

Conference delegates said Arab industry should also branch into a new range of basic upstream petrochemicals such as those derived from naphtha, a refined oil product.

Others urged investment in synthetic rubber, detergents and paints. some experts feel Gulf petrochemical integration should be the first step in achieving competitive prices in the framework of a joint international marketing strategy.

Board Chairman of Gulf Petrochemicals Industry Company, Dr Tawfeek al-Moayyad, said foreign

> **Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Co-operation Council partners — Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — face a 13 per cent duty as soon as they sell petrochemicals worth a few million dollars in Europe. The Gulf states have suggested that EC countries would not welcome similar tariffs on their massive exports to the Gulf.**

markets were crucial. "There is sound reason for Tunisia and Jordan, which manufacture chemical fertilizers requiring ammonia, to import their needs from the Gulf due to its proximity," he said.

Saudi Arabia is pursuing joint ventures as one way to prise open the lucrative European market.

SABIC owns 70 per cent of the $300 million Ibn Zahr Saudi-European Petrochemicals Company, with Finland's Neste Oy, Italy's Enichem Polymeri and the Saudi-based Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (Apicrop) holding 10 per cent each.

As the Erupeans seek to delay the impact of growing Gulf industrial competition, one alternative is joint venture action, but this won't lessen competition for markets in the Far East and elsewhere.

Singapore, for instance, sells products to Japan, India and southeast Asian countries — possible targets for the new Saudi refineries in Jubail and Yanbu, which are expected to boost the country's production capacity to between 4 per cent and 5 per cent of world output.

But even a small percentage of the market brings vast rewards. The UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) estimates that world demand for basic petrochemical products will exceed 332 million tonnes in the year 2000 — two-and-a-half times the 1980 level.

Third World methanol consumption is predicted to rise to 17 per cent of global demand, against less than 7 per cent in 1980.

The dispute between Gulf producers and Europe, and between Europe and North America, concerns more than free markets amd protectionism — it is about the opening up of markets to a new, vigorous and well-equipped producer. At stake is the market not only of Europe, but of the Arab and Muslim world and of the rest of Asia and the Americas.

It will be a long-running saga whose potential ramifications could make the row over oil proudction look like a storm in a tea cup.

Latifa Ali is a Gulf-based journalist.

Demand for Nigerian coal

LAGOS (OPECNA) — The Nigerian Coal Corporation has received foreign orders for more than five million tonnes of coal since January, according to General-Manager Festus Ugwu.

He told Mines, Power and Steel Minister Prof Tam David-West during his visit to Enugu, eastern Nigeria, that 7,500 tonnes of coal was awaiting shipment, and the corporation was finalizing exploitation agreements with foreign companies to ensure increased supplies.

Ugwu told the minister that since October 1984 and through 1985, the corporation exported about 28,000 tonnes of coal.

The corporation is to export 2.5 million tonnes of coal to Italy this year.

David-West assured the corporation chief that the government could not afford to ignore the country's huge coal deposits, adding that moves had already been initiated to revitalize and modernize the industry.

In a project to improve the performance of fuels, this scientist is using laser beams to probe a flame and to examine the formation and burn-up of soot particles. A number of factors — including flame temperature, residence time and fuel/air ratio — can be separated and controlled while a special burner produces a stable, non-turbulent flame of known composition. The mechanism of soot particle formation is among the research projects undertaken at a Shell UK research centre. The work is of direct practical importance because the particles make flames more radiant and therefore increase heat transfer rates. In addition, the efficient burn-up of soot particles within well designed combustion equipment helps to produce a clean environment.

BIG CITIES ON THE INCREASE

STATISTICS that tell a story

Of 126 nations studied by the World Bank, not one registered a decrease in the number of big cities (over 500,000 population) between 1960 and 1980. While some remained static, the majority experienced increased country-to-city flow and several showed marked increases.

NUMBER OF CITIES OF MORE THAN 500,000 *

Country	1960	1980
China	38	78
United States	40	65
Soviet Union	25	50
India	11	36
Britain	15	17
Nigeria	2	9
Pakistan	2	7
Iraq	1	3
Egypt	2	2
Saudi Arabia	0	2
Hong Kong	1	1
Singapore	1	1
Malaysia	0	1
Jordan	0	1
Kenya	0	1
Tanzania	0	1

* Selected from World Development Report 1985

Source, World Bank — © Compass News Features Luxembourg

Bits and Bytes

Records

LAST WEEK we had an introduction into the subject of record. We continue the introduction with more complicated records to make our subject more understood.

Let's consider the following declaration of a record.

```
DECLARE 1 STUDENT
2 NAME
  3 FIRST
  3 SECOND
  3 LAST
2 ADDRESS
  3 CITY
  3 STREET
2 CLASS
```

STUDENT contains elementary items which cannot be further subdivided: FIRST, SECOND, LAST, CITY, STREET, CLASS. However, it contains group items which can be subdivided further: NAME, ADDRESS.

We can also consider STUDENT as a group item, the level numbers designate different level of subdivisions, a higher level number means further subdivision.

In our example we can consider NAME and ADDRESS each as a record by itself, STUDENT is the top level record, the bottom level item is the elementary item which cannot be further subdivided, the intermediate level records are the group items other than STUDENT itself.

Every item has a complete specified name which consists of a name from level 1, another from level 2 and so on till we reach the level of item itself. An example:

```
STUDENT
STUDENT. NAME
STUDENT. NAME. FIRST
```

We can also have arrays of records. Example:

```
DECLARE 1 BOOK(10)
2 TITLE
2 AUTHOR
```

The above example means that BOOK is one-dimensional array with 10 elements and each element has two items.

BOOK(1) refers to all information about first book, BOOK(2) refers to all information about second book, and so on for the other books.

BOOK(1). TITLE is the title of the first book, BOOK(2). AUTHOR is the author of the second book. Instead of writing BOOK(1). TITLE, we can write TITLE(1), also we can write BOOK. TITLE(1), and so on for the other components.

We can conclude that each line of the following are equivalent.

```
BOOK(1). TITLE    BOOK. TITLE(1)    TITLE(1)
BOOK(1). AUTHOR   BOOK. AUTHOR(1)   AUTHOR(1)
```

I can be any number from 1 to 10.

(Maha Mahadeen)

The 'Man' computer

AMMAN (Star) — Just when it looks as though the computer industry is getting settled enough for the average user to catch up with the jargon that is in common usage, an entirely new set of words has started to appear.

For example, what is a Man? Try "metropolitan area network" and you'll get the idea.

This particular type of Man is the latest thing in computer communications in the US. Its object is quite simple, being pushed hard by companies such as AT & T and Burroughs as the ultimate network, a high-speed, data-transmission system that will allow much larger networks than currently possible. These would allow largish, metropolitan-sized, areas to be covered.

The new system also involves the use of such tongue twisters as isochronous and nonisochronous. These are important, because they define the way in which different parts of the network communicate with each other when linked together. Isochronous in this context means data that is transmitted at equally spaced time intervals, while nonisochronous means, by definition, systems that transmit data as and when they feel the urge.

The key to the system comes in the form of communications bridges between the various local ring networks that make up a complete metropolitan wide scheme. These bridges would be based, as would the ring networks themselves, on the existing fibre optic transmission technology and lines that have been installed by the many regional telephone companies in the USA.

The whole idea is based on a new standard being put forward by the US Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. This defines fibre optic-based ring networks and their connection. Each linking bridge has two isochronous address templates, one for communications in each direction.

Basic programmes

LESSON 12

Our next lesson will be about system defined functions. Let's first give an example then clarify the idea behind it.

Problems: Write a programme to print a table of functions (SIN, COS, TAN)

PROGRAMME

```
10 REM PRINT A TABLE OF FUNCTIONS
20 PRINT "X","SIN(X)","COS(X)", "TAN(X)"
30 FOR X = 10 TO 90 STEP 10
40 Y1=SIN(X)
50 Y2=COS(X)
60 Y3=TAN(X)
70 PRINT X,Y1,Y2,Y3
80 NEXT X
999 END
```

The above programme is using three functions, SIN, COS, TAN. They are built-in functions or system defined functions. X has a value 10 or 20 until 90 with a period 10 between consecutive values.

Y1 estimates the sine of X; in the computer the sine of X will be estimated mathematically without needing to write a programme for estimating it, and so on for cosine and the tangent.

Also, other system defined functions can be used such as LOG (X), ARCTAN (X) etc.

These functions are incorporated in the memory of the computer and can be retrieved by just naming it.

Two worlds

Macintosh 512k/800 is unveiled

APPLE HAS announced a new computer called Macintosh 512k/800.

It features an internal disc drive with 800k of storage, 512k of RAM and 128k of ROM. The keyboard has a built-in numeric key-pad and cursor-control keys.

Apple says "The machine is the continuing answer to market demands...a base line Macintosh with the same architecture as the Macintosh Plus, which will be the spring board for all major Macintosh enhancements in the future."

Owners of Mac 512k computers can upgrade to the 512k/800 by buying the Macintosh Plus disc-drive kit. It includes a double-sized 800k internal disc drive, the new ROM chips, the Macintosh Plus system tools disc and a guide to new features.

PROGRAMMES

Curve plotting

```
10 DIM N(15)
20 FOR I = 1 TO 13
30 READ N(I)
40 NEXT I
50 PRINT, "CURVE PLOTTING-2"
70 FOR K = 1 TO 20
80 PRINT ".";
85 NEXT K
86 PRINT
90 FOR I = 1 TO  13
120 PRINT ".";
125 FOR J = 1 TO (N(I)-1)
130 PRINT " ";
140 NEXT J
142 PRINT "."
144 PRINT "."
145 NEXT I
150 DATA 2,6,10,13,15,16,17
160 DATA 16,15,13,10,6,2
999 END
```

CURVE PLOTTING

```
10 PRINT "CURVE PLOTTING"
20 FOR I = 1 TO 10
30 PRINT ".";
40 FOR J = 1 TO I + 2
50 PRINT " ";
60 NEXT J
70 PRINT "."
80 PRINT "."
90 PRINT "."
100 NEXT I
999 END
```

CURVE PLOTTING-2

WORLD CUP 1986

The Road To MEXICO86

SPOTLIGHT: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland

LONDON — England's hopes of success in the World Cup finals in Mexico are carried principally by two talented footballers whose contrasting skills divide supporters.

Glenn Hoddle, with the delicate technique and broad vision of a Latin American and long-range shooting ability to match, is the inspiration of London's Tottenham Hotspur.

Bryan Robson, the hard-tackling captain of Manchester United and England who combines a huge appetite for work with a devastating goal-scoring touch, is the epitome of traditional British soccer strengths.

Tottenham fans decry Robson as injury-prone and predictable, while Manchester supporters scorn Hoddle as inconsistent and lazy — but national team manager Bobby Robson (no relation) believes both are vital to England's hopes in Mexico.

Last year England travelled to Mexico for a four-nation tournament in Mexico City. The team lost to Italy and the host country, but benefitted from a week of acclimatization to defeat newly-arrived West Germany.

It was clear then that with heat and altitude putting a brake on England's usual vigorous style, Hoddle was in his element.

By Keir Radnedge
Compass News Features

The dry, firm pitches showed up technical flaws among his team-mates, but not in Hoddle, whose ball control has always been outstanding.

But Hoddle needs someone to fetch and carry for him, to cover and complement him — in short, someone like Bryan Robson.

The problem is that the England captain's World Cup prospects are shrouded in doubt. He has been troubled by various injuries over the past 18 months, most damagingly by a recurrent shoulder dislocation.

Manager Robson wanted his namesake to undergo an operation this spring after he damaged the shoulder again, but Manchester United was chasing league title honours and could not afford to do without him.

Bryan Robson is not alone in carrying an injury to the finals — so will a host of other famous players, including Argentina's Diego Maradona, West Germany's Pierre Littbarski, Italy's Paolo Rossi and possibly even French star Michel Platini.

But that is small consolation for a manager anxious to erase the memory of Mexico in 1970, when England threw away a 2-0 lead and lost 3-2 after extra-time to West Germany in the quarter-final.

This time England must tackle the peculiar problems of Monterrey, the hottest World Cup venue but the lowest in altitude at 1,770 feet. Although the team is acclimatizing at altitude in Colorado in the United States, it may face difficulties in later rounds — if it qualifies from preliminary Group F — readjusting to the thin air at other venues, none of which is lower than 5,140 feet.

● Scottish footballers are not normally warriors. The country's reputation has been built over the years by such players as Denis Law, Kenny Dalglish, Dave Mackay and Graeme Souness, the present captain, whose strength lay not only in their skill but their courage.

But the World Cup holds few happy memories. Scotland has been eliminated in the first round of the last three finals tournaments on goal difference — and the high standard of its initial opposition in Mexico provides little reason for hope of better things this time.

The Scots face the toughest first-round opponents in West Germany, Uruguay and Denmark — all potential world champions — and must do so without the reassuring managerial presence of Jock Stein.

Into the managerial breach stepped Alex Ferguson, Stein's assistant and the full-time manager of Aberdeen, which he has guided to numerous domestic honours and the European Cup-Winners's Cup in 1983.

Ferguson's teams play attractive football, but he is also a realist, as he showed with his tactics and team selection for the awkward play-off match in Australia which sealed the Scots' qualification for the finals.

Scotland had won 2-0 in the first leg in Glasgow, but there were no risks taken in the return in Melbourne.

Star forward Dalglish, who had then been capped a record 99 times by his country was left out in favour of a tight defensive formation.

The disciplined, defensive tactics — uncharacteristic for the Scots — earned a 0-0 draw and qualification for the finals, which is why, despite the difficult challenge in Mexico, Scotland could spring a surprise.

The team has plenty of ability. Captain Souness won almost all the game's domestic and European honours with Liverpool before his move in 1984 to Sampdoria in Italy, where he ranked among the most influential midfield players in a star-studded championship.

One notable absentee will be centre-forward Steve Archibald. The former Tottenham player has achieved an international reputation through his success in Spain with Barcelona, helping his club to the Spanish championship in 1985 and to this year's European Champions' Cup final.

But Archibald, whose fitness has been in doubt, was dropped from the squad by Ferguson after a wretched display in the Champions' Cup final in Seville, where Barcelona went down 2-0 in a penalty shoot-out to the unfancied Romanians from Steaua Bucharest.

● Some critics believe Northern Ireland will be out of its depth in the World Cup finals. They include Denmark's manager Sepp Piontek, whose team drew 1-1 with Northern Ireland in a March friendly in Belfast.

Piontek said later that Northern Ireland would find playing in Mexico very different from Belfast's mud and rain; the World Cup grounds will be hard, the ball will fly through the light atmosphere and altitude and heat will wear down players' fitness, stamina and resistance.

He might have added that the Irish also would have to face full-strength opposition — that night the Danes were depleted by domestic commitments, and several of the players who were available were under club orders not to play for more than 60 minutes of the match.

But Northern Ireland's captain Sammy McIlroy, now 32, ran harder and longer than most of his team-mates against the Danes. He was a member of the side which surprised host Spain by beating it to reach the second round of the finals in 1982.

But experts rate Northern Ireland's opponents tougher than four years ago, while the squad does not look as strong.

The main strikers in Spain, record scorer Gerry Armstrong and Billy Hamilton, have been dogged by injuries, and their age is telling, too. The burden in attack is likely to fall almost entirely on Manchester United's talented and physical Norman Whiteside, the youngest-ever World Cup player in 1982 and still only 21.

A crisis in goal has only been averted by manager Billy Bingham's success in coaxing Pat Jennings out of retirement.

'We don't want a World Cup...'

By Emil Zubryn
Compass News Features

MEXICO CITY, Mexico — Seven months after the 19-20 September earthquakes which killed at least 8,000 Mexicans and made more than 100,000 homeless, victims complain that reconstruction is proceeding at a snail's pace.

The Committee of Earthquake Victims (CUD) says that while the plight of people whose homes were destroyed is becoming worse, the government offers only "cosmetic and temporary" solutions.

Up to 50,000 people are still living in tents, and they are threatening to embarrass the authorities by pitching camp outside Mexico City's showpiece Aztec stadium during the soccer World Cup which kicks off there on 31 May.

Four thousand people made homeless by the earthquake recently paraded through the capital carrying placards reading: "We don't want a World Cup — we want housing."

Mexicans blame a "manana syndrome" among officials who offer promises but fail to fulfil them. Progress has been made in demolishing damaged buildings in the downtown area which were unsafe and a danger to pedestrians and traffic.

But others still await demolition by Mexican crews, rather than the American teams which were brought in immediately after the disaster. The squads remained idle for weeks while the authorities tried to decide about the potential dangers of blowing up damaged buildings.

Now much of the work continues with manual labour, usually between midnight and dawn, as workers chip and blast away at the skeletons of buildings under the dim illumination of a single floodlight.

Experts say many structurally unsound buildings pose a danger to the crews working on them, but the job goes on nonetheless.

The federal and city governments say all services in the metropolitan area are operating again, but officials admit that the problems have been played down — particularly that of the "tent people."

On the sixth month anniversary of the earthquake, more than 4,000 victims paraded through Mexico City to City Hall located in the Zocalo, the main square. They protested at the priority given to the World Cup rather than reconstruction, carrying banners saying: "The earthquake destroyed our homes but not our dignity."

The government has decided that rebuilding of hospitals and schools rather than housing will have first call on the resources of the National Reconstruction Fund.

The fund was built up with money donated by private citizens, industry and charities, and includes million of dollars donated by other countries.

The government's programme will require 130 billion pesos ($726 million) for minor and intermediate repairs and the construction of 21,261 housing units, promised by the city authorities for December.

But homeless Mexicans, angered by the government's failure to deliver on earlier promises, may not be prepared to wait.

The author is an American freelancer based in Mexico City.

The tennis 'wonder girls'

Steffi Graf

FRANKFURT AM Main (DaD) — Germany's tennis 'wonder girls' are really going places. There is hardly a major international tournament where Steffi Graf, 16, or Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, 22, does not reach the final. In Florida they faced each other in the final at Amelia Island. Steffi won, having beaten Chris Lloyd-Evert a week earlier.

In Germany their rise to stardom was overshadowed by that of Wimbledon men's singles champion Boris Becker, 18 and more attention was paid to them abroad. They have played so consistently well that they are now listed third and fifth respectively in the world ratings. Either may yet come within striking distance of the world's number one, Martina Navratilova.

Steffi Graf comes from Bruhl, Baden, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch from Saarbrucken. Steffi is managed by her father, Peter Graf, Claudia by her stepfather, Jurgen Kilsch. Girls of their age may still go to school or university; they earn a good living in professional tennis.

She prefers to train with men. Her forehand shots are awesome, her service and her backhand still need improvement. She could also show more attacking spirit at the net. Her legwork is held in high regard and she is powerful and more athletic now her figure has grown shapelier.

(Manfred Neuber)

The hurdler from Morocco

MOROCCO HAD never won an Olympic gold medal before the afternoon in August 1984 in the Los Angeles Coliseum when Nawal El Moutawakil won the first women's 400 metres final.

El Moutawakil, then 22, also made history as the first Arab woman to take an Olympic gold; and to do it she beat a field including Olympic record-holder Louise Skoglund of Sweden.

She led from the start of the race and by the final bend had shaken off the opposition. Her winning time of 54.61 was a personal — and Moroccan — best and easily broke Skoglund's Olympic record.

The experts who had made Skoglund hot favourite to win had ignored El Moutawakil's impressive credentials. She started as a cross-country runner and later tried sprint events and the 400 metres before discovering that her best talent was in the steeplechase.

In 1983 El Moutawakil reached the semi-final of her event in the world championship, and before the Olympics she became 1984 African champion as well as winning the American Collegiate championship (she is a physical education major at Iowa State University).

(Compass News Feature)

STAR FEATURES

Scenic journeys near Amman

By Venita Maudsley
Special to The Star

ABOUT 12 kilometres form Amman's 8th Circle is the beautiful Wadi Seer Valley. The scenery, on the descent to the valley, is varied and, in contrast to the plateau, becomes lush and almost tropical.

After passing a small graveyard, on the left, Araq al Amir can be seen further down the valley. There are caves in the cliff face on the right with the name Tobiah carved, in old Hebrew characters, by two of the doors.

A little further along stand the ruins of Qasr al Abid (the castle of the slave.) Work is being carried out, at present, to rebuild it and determine its origin. It was built between the third century B.C. and the first century A.D., and has been described, by different people, as "a palace," "a temple."

The plan and architectural features are unique which make the tasks of determining age and function a difficult one. During the reign of Seleous IV, (187-175 BC), a certain Hyrcanus was said to have built, in this area, "a strong castle of white stone surrounded by a fine park and lake, and having on its walls representations of animals of a prodigious magnitude."

The name given to it was "Tyre" and this could have become Seer or Sur in Arabic. The lion carvings can still be seen, though damaged. On the valley side of the castle there is a large stone wall which could well have been a dam to enclose the waters of the moat or "lake." Excavations at the Qasr show evidence of Byzantine occupation during the fourth and fifth centuries A.D.

The Qasr al-Abid from a distance

A lion sculpture on the walls of Qasr al-Abid

From the Qasr, it is possible to walk down to the valley where, in late spring and summer, the banks of the river are ablaze with pink oleander (Nerium oleander being the most common.) It is an evergreen shrub which flowers from late April right through the summer. Both leaves and stem contain a reputedly poisonous milky resin.

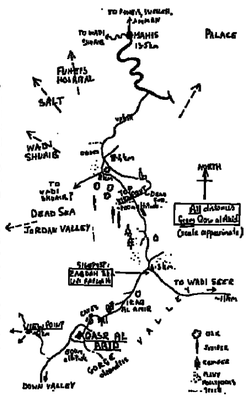
Along the edge of the river, too, are masses of reeds (Phragmites australis) gently swaying in the breeze. During biblical times, the reed was used extensively for field hedges, mats, flutes, pens and walking canes, as well as for house construction. Because of the hollowness of the stem, the reed is sometimes used to symbolize fragility. "The Lord will smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water."(1 Kings 14:15)

Studded across the valley are many pomegranate trees (Punica granatum) which, in May, are covered in crimson blossom. The pomegranate is referred to in the Quran as one of the fruits of Paradise. It has been cultivated for thousands of years in these lands. The bark and rind were once used as ingredients of ink and are still used for tanning. Both in the Quran and the Bible, the pomegranate's beautiful shape is likened to that of a woman and its many seeds symbolize fertility.

Rising tall and slender from the Wadi are many Lombardy Poplar trees (Populus nigra italica), and olives and oaks are abundant.

Among the many birds that frequent the area there are many Wheatears or Chats (Oenanthe), Crested Larks (Galildera cristata) and Doves (Streptopelia.)

On the return journey to Amman, it is highly recommended to follow the accompanying map. It is a very scenic route of winding roads lined, in parts with Oak trees, Junipers, Hollyhocks and Poppies interspersed with bare, shiny rock.



Map route from Fuheis to Qasr Al- Abid

The climax of the journey is, on reaching the top of the hill, the panoramic view of the Jordan Valley, with the Dead Sea to the South and rising above it, on the West Bank, the hills of Jerusalem and Jericho and looking North, Ramallah and on a very clear day one can see as far as Nablus.

Further North, on the East Bank, the town of Salt can be seen across the Wadi Shuaib valley. The road then links with the main road through Mahis, Al Fuhais and Swelleh to Amman.

SPORTAID in Jordan

By Mark Thomson
Special to The Star

PERSISTENT DROUGHT in Africa has caused untold human misery. In Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, and many other countries in East Africa, the drought has combined with civil war, coups, and unwanted government intervention to prevent the Africans from raising enough food to feed themselves. The people are starving, in huge numbers. Every day, more men, women, and children succumb to hunger and die, according to news reports.

Rich foreign powers tried to help sometimes. More often, they had to sell weapons to these countries. Even when they did try to provide aid, it was usually the kind that the Africans couldn't effectively use, and often was worse than nothing.

Massive grants did little to alleviate hunger in Africa. No matter how large those grants were, the debt of the recipient country — and thus the interest that had to be paid yearly to the rich North — was almost always greater. It seemed that the African people were bound to pay the price of salvation, trapped by massive national debts and the indifference of their own governments to their plight.

Then, one day, one of the rich North's people looked in his newspaper and saw pictures of the results of African famine. What he saw sickened him, and he vowed to do something to help those people. That man was Bob Geldof, leader, singer of the Boomtown Rats, a pop music group, and his efforts would bring hope to millions of starving Africans.

Geldof needed money to help the Africans, and fast. Every day, more were dying needlessly. Geldof contacted his many friends in the music business about recording a single, with the profits to be used to help relieve famine victims in Africa.

The response was overwhelming. Dozens of English pop stars gathered and recorded the song "Do They Know It's Christmas?" The song was one of the most successful in the history of pop music. People lined up to buy six or seven copies of the record each. The profits were therfore enormous.

Geldof established the Band-Aid Trust, a charity group whose sole purpose was to use the profits from "Do They Know It's Christmas?" to help alleviate famine in Africa.

Unknowingly, Geldof had started a movement whose end is still not in sight. Across the Atlantic, in America, American pop stars saw the success that the Band-Aid Trust was enjoying in helping the Africans. They established the US For Africa Trust and recorded another single, "We Are The World."

If anything, "We Are The World" was more successful than "Do They Know It's Christmas?" Millions of dollars were raised for the effort. Geldof saw this, and made an unprecedented proposal: a live concert in both England and America, simultaneously. Both American and English pop stars were to sing in the concert, and it would broadcast, live all over the world, as well as a number which viewers could use to call in and pledge money for the charity.

Bob Geldof in 'The Race Against Time campaign

The concert was an unrelieved success. It also spawned a half-dozen imitators: a record by US For Africa, a fashion show for charity (Fashion Aid), country-music singers for charity (Farm Aid), and now, a sporting event for charity. (Sport Aid.)

SPORTAID was organized by the Band Aid Trust, Bob Geldof, and UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. It was a week of international sporting events between the 17 and 25 of May. The week culminated in alona African runner, Col. Omar Khalifa of Sudan, completing a run through the 12 major European capitals and lighted a flame at the eve of the first-ever United Nations General Assembly of Africa.

The lighting of the feme touched off the start of a number of marathon races run simultaneously in different parts of the world, called the "Race Against Time."

In Jordan, the local UNICEF branch combined with the National Relief Committee for Sudan, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to organize the week in Jordan. In an agreement with UNICEF, one half of the proceeds from SPORTAID in Jordan will go to the Band Aid Trust, and another half to the National Relief Committee for Sudan, to be distributed as needed for famine relief in Africa.

The activities held in Jordan, from 10-25 May, in an expanded SPORTAID week, included:

— A Basketball match between the Orthodox and Ahli Clubs, 10 May.
— A Volleyball match between the Al-Wihdat Youth Centre and the Al-Hussein Youth Centre, 22 May.
— A five and 10 kilometre race, organized by the Amman Hash House Harriers, 22 May.
— A symbolic three kilometer race as part of the worldwide "Race Against Time," 25 May.

In addition, a bridge tournament and a football match have yet to be scheduled, but the profits will also go to SPORTAID.

So far, these activities have raised JD 2600 for famine relief.

SPORTAID has been a massive and unprecedented show of solidarity with the plight of African famine victims. Millions of dollars have been raised wroldwide to help these unfortunate victims. The organizers of SPORTAID have done a turly humanitarian service, in focusing attention on the need for our efforts to be used in helping Africa constructively.

Ceramics and paintings with similar characteristics

By Margarette Hall
Special to The Star

ASAM BADER was born in Hebron in 1948. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 1973 and has participated in all the annual exhibitions for the Artists of the Occupied Territories. After obtaining an M.A. in Palestinian Ceramics from the Tebeesi Academy of Fine Arts in the USSR in 1982, he exhibited his works at the Alia Art Gallery

Although he worked as an Art instructor at the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Women Training Centre from 1973 to 1981, he is now working in the development of Palestinian handicrafts such as ceramics, pottery and glass.

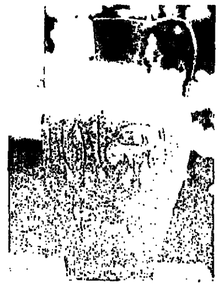
Pottery inspired Bader as a child. He started making potteries as well as using watercolours to sell them to tourists.

He later defied his ceramic teacher, Valentino Shaker, and went to Baghdad in order to learn academic painting. Consequently, in his exhibition last week, held at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, Bader displayed both works of ceramics and painting as well.

Pottery and ceramics come from the same group: they must have mechanical strength so that they will not break easily, chemical durability, hardness against erosion and the ability to be decorated in various colours, textures and designs.

Thus, Bader combines both ceramics and pottery with designs from the Palestinian farm dress motif with the background colour of black. Basically, the clay base can be replaced with organic and inorganic materials providing strength before firing (final heating.)

In his work, Bader uses both the wheel and ropes. A series of chemical reactions envolving heat are undergone, and as a result, oxidation and reduction take place The black colour is very difficult to obtain since it is usually absorbed. However, Bader oxidizes and uses white glaze, burns bones from cows and lambs, burns wood and



Arabic glue, which takes no less than one whole day, only to form his idea, which is much more important than the shape, he says.

His ceramics are done before the primary burning, then brushed with glaze. This process is indeed difficult, since clay is porous and absorbs the colour. Hence, Bader employs colour in his composition and gives it an importance. Also, in 'The Birth of Peace', a ceramic figure a chick is in the process of hatching out of its shell, conveyed by the cracks and the head protruding with round prominent eyes and narrow beak. But it has cut itself with the sharp shell edges as seen from the brownish liquid dripping out of the neck. This figure seems to have a symbolic meaning to the artist.

No 10 is that of along necked jar, its bottom starts off with black and gradually lightens until a beige colour is conceived at the mouth. The latter process is done by 'Smoking' it in the oven, which is not controlled by the artist.

As for his paintings, they are nearly all done in oil except for the painting of 'Jerusalem' which is done in acrylic. The Dome of the Rock is emphasized in blue, the designs and gold domes are present. To the back, colourful buildings are outlined in thin brown oil lines straight from the tube. These lines indeed define boundaries and give texture to the work.

The Jerusalem Fortress surrounds the buildings and is done in the castle walls style. Again outlined in brown, the composition depends on the area or space and the Fortress which corresponds to elements in the Palestinian legacy. In the foreground, abstract greenish knife strokes suggest greenery.

Furthermore, one can detect certain trends or phases in the work. For example, in his 1969 'Legacies', Asam employs the abstract style, giving shape to regtangular boulders, and in some of them black barbed wire and a realistic white pigeon are seen. But in the 1982 group where Jerusalem is abstractly conveyed, orange, red and black colours are dominant and the pigeon is replaced with a round circle.

Nevertheless, the bird reappears in his latest style, which is painted in a semi circular shape. Bader says, "the bird is not an academic symbol, although to me it represents Jerusalem."

As a result of his research of Jerusalem using academic analysis, he has reached transparent pastel colours in his skies, which is indeed evident in his paintings.

Finally, there is a definate relationship between Bader's ceramics and paintings — they have common colours designs and meanings.

Reem Yasin's Cinema Corner

Children in cinema
a bone of contention

ALL THROUGH the ages and all over the world most films usually centre around human relationships. One of the aspects of human relationships that seems to be a favourite focus is usually that manifested in family life, or rather family strife. Family life is often put under a microscope and closely examined — relationships dissected and emotions exposed.

Of course, different parts of the world produce different images accordingly, also, different times present different problems. Many of the relatively older films prided in focusing on happy families with closely knit ties and unwavering loyal ties. As times changed and broken up, families became a reality hard to ignore films switched focus to divorce and its' dire effects (some of Hollywood's best films on the subject were "Kramer Versus Kramer," "Irreconcilable Differences" and "Shoot the Moon.")

In most of these films, however, children remain the main issue.

One particular aspect of family life that primarily concerns children is the question of adoption with its emotional effects on both adopted children and adoptive parents, a problem that has become quite a preoccupation in many parts of the world, Europe and America especially (a problem that does not seem to arise in our parts of the world — maybe because in itself is not easily accepted either socially or religiously.)

In all cases, the main question usually raised is: "Which is the stronger tie, that of blood or that of upbringing," Answers vary and attitudes differ.

Two films that come from Eastern Europe (the Soviet Film "To Remember or to Forget" and the Czechoslovakian film "Escapes Home") seem to settle for the answer that the real bond between parents and children is not that of blood, but that of caring and sharing the best and the worst of life.

The difference between the two films is that one tackles the problem from the parents' point of view, while the other one concentrates on the child's standpoint. In "To Remeber or to Forget" the dilemma is that of the mother who discovers that her real son whom she had thought dead before adopting another is after all alive, and so she wants to take him back from his adoptive mother.

The second film centres around a child who overhears by accident that he is not his parents' real son and sets forth to discover his true parentage, but stops at the last minute and goes back to what has always been home for him.

It is a dilemma that is as old as time, a dilemma that King Solomon had to face one day as he was confronted with two women each claiming to be the mother of the same child. However, answers and resolutions differ and attitudes change as places vary and time passes on.

Friends of Archaeology news

JUNE IS coming up and its full steam ahead for the Friend's trip to Jawa which is now planned for Thursday 12 and Friday 13.

The trip will get underway from the Department of Antiquities. Registration is at 2 pm on Thursday and the group will spend the night at the government resthouse at Azraq and will leave at 8 am the next morning for Jawa, which is an early bronze age city in the basalt desert of the northeast.

Cost for the trip is only JD 7 per person double occupancy and including dinner and breakfast, but don't forget to bring a picnic lunch and plenty of water. Reservations must be made before 2 June with Mrs Marilyn Bentley (669089.) Please note, this is a trip for high clearance vehicles only and Mrs Bentley also needs to know who has spare seats and who needs rides.

Next trip up will be to Beit Ras and Abila on Friday 20 June. Dr Charle Lenzen will lead the trip, which offers the chance to see not only two important classical sites, but also some traditional villages and beautiful classical sites, but also some traditional villages and beautiful countryside. Departure will be at the usual 8:30 am, but note well, it will be from the Amra Hotel.

And on it goes — on Friday 27 June Dr Edward Banning will lead a tour of his recent excavations at bedouin encampments and small agricultural villages dating to the Roman period. Once again its an 8:30 start from the Amra Hotel.

And if you think the excursions end with the field trips, don't forget this month's lectures, two of which give friends the chance for a journey of discovery to the new American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) headquarters, opposite to the University of Jordan.

On Tuesday 3 June at 8:30 pm, Dr Richard Antoun, Professor of Anthropology at the State University of Binghampton, will speak on "The Impact of Education and Migration in rural Jordan; A Case Study of Kufr al-Ma. Dr Antoun will describe the village as it was in 1960 when he first began to study it and then will describe the changes that have taken place over the past 26 years in such areas as settlement pattern, material culture, commercial life, transport and particularly education and migration. It promises to be a fascinating lecture.

Its back to the new ACOR, on Tuesday 17 June at 8:30 pm for a lecture by Dr Donald Whitcomb of the University of Chicago on "Recent Discoveries at the Medieaval Islamic Site of Aqaba." This is Dr Whitcomb's first public presentation of his 1986 excavations which have uncovered impressive architectural remains and large quantities of imported pottery from Iraq and China.

In between times the French Cultural Centre will present a lecture by Dr Jean Rey Coquais on the Lebanese coastal city of "Tyre: From the Phoenetian to the Byzantine Periods." The lecture is scheduled for Wednesday 11 June at 8:00 pm at the French Cultural Centre on Jebel Luweibdeh, but watch the papers in case there is a time change.

CALENDAR

Entertainment

A FEATURE FILM entitled Splash will be showing at the American Centre on 2nd of June, at 6 pm.

A FRENCH MINE play will be conducted in the Main Theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre on Tuesday 3rd of June, at 9 pm.

Lectures

DR RICHARD ANTOUN, professor of Anthropology at the state university of New York at Binghamton will speak on The Impact of Education and Migration in Rural Jordan: A Case Study of Kufr al-Ma, on Tuesday 3rd of June, at 8:30 pm, at the ACOR building.

Trips

FRIENDS OF Archaeology will sponsor a trip to the city of Jawa, led by Dr Svend Helms, on 12-13 June. For more information, call 669089.

Women in Saudi Arabian society: subjugation or solicitude?

By Hussein Shehadeh

THE EXPLOSIVE developments of the past decades in Saudi Arabia have created entirely new conditions for men and women alike. The decentralized economy and tribal structure of the earlier bedouin society are disintegrating as a result of rapid urbanization and industrialization.

On the other hand, Islam has always played a decisive role in Saudi Arabian society. The religious norms of Islam are closely interwoven with and influenced by the patriarchal bedouin social structure. It is thus unavoidable that the transition to an industrial, consumer oriented society causes social tension and gives rise to problems as far as the status of women is concerned.

Many women in Saudi Arabia, especially older women and those in rural areas, are deeply religious and do not believe that radical changes should be made to their status. The commandment of the Qur'an which obliges the man to support the woman, which also gives him precedence, is interpreted by these women to mean that he has been the responsibility to treat women with consideration and kindness. If a man does not live up to this responsibility, then the woman's acceptance of her role might be displaced by contempt and revolt. If this did happen, it would be directed at the individual man, not at a way of life considered to be ideal.

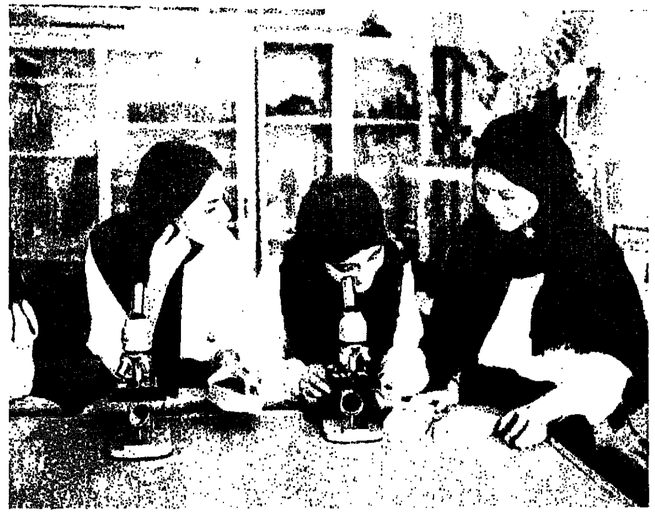
For younger women with more modern attitudes, things are rather different. Developments in society have meant they now have educational opportunities, and that they are more aware of themselves as women and of their rights. They do, however, come up against problems when they attempt to realize their intentions.

It says something of the friction in Saudi Arabia, that when the first girl's school was opened in 1960, riots broke out between men with traditional attitudes, and the government was forced to send in troops to quieten the situation. This type of occurrence naturally reduces the ruling royal family's desire to introduce liberation reforms for women. The royal family has also committed itself to a large extent to following the country's religious leaders, since it is custodianship of orthodox Islam that has given the Saud family its legitimacy to rule. Finally, Khomeini's revolution in Iran has had a strong psychological effect in the Gulf states, which has put a stop to reforms of benefit to women.

As the West gradually becomes better acquainted with the Arab world, many ask themselves the question: are Arab women exposed to gross subjugation, or is there something in their society and religiousness which causes westerners to miss the whole point of the problem? In order to shed some light on this, we will focus our attention on the debate in Saudi Arabia on the subject of womens' position in society.

The editor of the Saudi Arabian daily, Al Medina, said on a recent visit to Denmark: "Of course we have women journalists on our paper — there are seven of them and they do the daily womens' page. We make sure that our daughters get a decent education and there are both women doctors and teachers in Saudi Arabia, but no female taxi drivers or road sweepers. Women are not to be employed in strenuous jobs. Islam teaches us to take good care of our women."

Another male Saudi journalist, Hassan al-Ahadi, writes: "Minor restrictions imposed on women, such as not being allowed to drive or work together with men in factories, only reflects the desire of Islam to preserve a Muslim woman's dignity tenderness and femininity."



Saudi Arabian young women at a school laboratory in Jeddah

It certainly sounds attractive to want to protect women by not allowing them to sweep the streets or drive a car, but it is not quite that simple: Firstly, no Saudi Arabians work as street sweepers — that is left to some of the country's two million foreign workers. Secondly, it is doubtful that any Saudi woman would wish to work as a street sweeper if she could decide what kind of job she wanted. Thirdly, the desire to protect women from hard physical work does not measure up to the realities of traditional Saudi Arabian life. A young woman says: We all come from the desert originally, and there every man thinks he is strong. But in bedouin society women do all the work. While the men sit about talking and drinking coffee. Women watch the sheep, do the milking, look after the children, grow vegetables and put up the tents, which is hard work. The men have nothing against a woman doing hard work, what they don't like is the idea of her thinking for herself. They feel that it degrades them. If women also did the thinking, what would there be left for the men to do?"

The most serious catch to the newspaper editor's statement is, however, that it is men who decide what is good and proper for women. Decisions concerning women's educational opportunities, and other conditions which lead to changes in their status are made by the country's religious council, the so-called ulema. This group of men decide what is good for women.

The editor explains that his female journalists are responsible for the paper's women's page. He does not mention that many female journalists in Saudi Arabia find it exceedingly dissatisfying only to be allowed to occupy themselves with women's interests as defined by men. As a female journalist at the daily, Al Jazirah, Jahair al Masa'id wrote (on the occasion of the disturbances on the Palestinian West Bank in 1982): "I find no reason to take men seriously when they say that women should concentrate on women's problems. In a society which only safeguards the rights of men, I am far from certain that writing about the Palestinian catastrophe is meddling in political affairs which women do not understand."

The protective attitude towards women of conservative Saudi men means that they are only allowed to work in certain sectors, where they have no contact with strange men. Another older conservative woman said: "When men and women are alone together, feelings can emerge between them which can disturb their work. These feelings can also result in broken marriages, as is often seen in the West."

Women on a shopping tour

Obviously, one cannot exclude the possibility of a man and a woman developing a sexual relationship at their place of work, which could result in the breakup of a marriage. All the same, it is an unmistakable infringement on the liberty of women. In reality, the separation of men and women means that women have no political influence on society as a whole, or on conditions which influence their own status. One can assume that the men will not stand down of their own accord, so it is therefore men who define what is good for women.

The religious authorities in Saudi Arabia do not speak directly of the dangerous sexuality of women. The reason given for their isolation is a desire to protect her and her family, the foundation of society. The essence of the matter is that women are allowed to work in sectors where they do not come into contact with men. It is, therefore, not their work but contact with men that is dangerous. The notion of dangerous sexuality safeguards men's supremacy.

The female journalist, Fawziyyah al-Bakr has this to say: "Traditionalists meet everything new with prohibitions, negativeness and fear. But isn't it a shame that our social development is handicapped by fear, which deep down is due to a lack of trust?"

The Saudi Arabian ulema try to find grounds for the subjugation of women in the traditions of Islam. For this reason it is worth emphasizing that there are masses of Muslims the world over who believe that genuine equality for women does not conflict with Islam. One young Saudi woman says: "We are trying to convince the men that a working wife is not necessarily a bad wife. We are trying to prove historically that Islam women have ruled, been permitted to go to war, associate with men and to speak publicly. We want to use the same religion as they do to prove that we are right."

The modern Saudi Arabian woman's struggle for equality is naturally quite different from the struggle of European women in recent years, since its basis is quite different. Only a few decades ago, Saudi Arabia was a bedouin society. The survival of the bedouin tribes was entirely dependent on the loyalty of its members. Individual interests had to give way to collective ones. The roles of individuals were defined by their position in the family. Now developments have taken an explosive turn in the direction of industrialization, urbanization, centralization and individualism.

In the West, family feeling and solidarity have been drastically reduced as a result of a century of industrialization and urbanization. This has created some problems for Europenn women which do not exist for their counterparts in Saudi Arabia. There, links with the family are still a very important factor for a woman. A young unmarried Saudi woman says: "Something very important in our culture is that we cannot live without our family or outside our country. I hope that my children will grow up together with their uncles and aunts and that my mother will look after them. That would make her very happy, and me, too. If I were to marry a man who my family could not accept, and I was therefore forced to leave them, could I be sure that my marriage would be a happy one? I cannot live without other people. When I was visiting England, I lived in a block with 100 flats, but people didn't know each other. Here everyone knows each other. Our society is basically bedouin, based on groups."

It is obvious, that when a Saudi Arabian woman has such strong ties to her family, that she will allow herself to be tied, thus hindering improvements in her situation. As another young woman puts it: "I am holding on to our traditions. I would like to see things develop without problems. I do not want to make the older generation unhappy."

The importance of the family is also reflected in marriage. Most marriages are still arranged by the parents, but some choose for themselves. In this sense, the telephone has had a revolutionary effect. It gives the young the opportunity of establishing informal contact, although this is taboo. The telephone also allows the betrothed to get to know each other before they are to be married. In the capital, Riyadh, many young people meet secretly in the department stores. The young women meet men and exchange telephone numbers with them.

Polygamy, once widespread, is now strongly on the decline. It is now hip not to have more than one wife, and the religious council directly discourages it. Another thing is that it is expensive to get oneself a wife. Many young men complain of this. The dowry can cost tens of thousands of pounds.

The horizon of Saudi Arabian women has been broadened considerably in the last few years as a result of them being given access to the education sector. This can cause marital problems. One man writes in a readers' letter: "My educated wife wants to discuss everything instead of just getting on with what I tell her to do."

The women engross themselves in their educations to the extent which knows no comparison in Europe. The explanation is that it gives them the opportunity to develop. As one young woman says: "Women really want to progress. I believe that women are better students than men. Women do their utmost to get on in life."

Their educations have the tendency to alienate them from traditional life. The traditional large family created common views on the basis of common living conditions. Now the members of the family develop in their own directions and this bound to cause conflicts in interest in the long run.

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19

Women in Saudi Arabian society

The mass media are another factor which expand the consciousness of Saudi women. Television is strictly censured, but a large selection of video films are available for private viewing. A young woman: "When I was younger I often saw Western films with my girl-friends. Afterwards we would discuss womens freedom and the effect it had on her personality. Had we not seen those films, we would probably be less disturbed and conscious of our own situations."

In Saudi Arabia, much is done to portray the Western woman as shocking and morally pernicious. A Saudi princess says: "We are not going to go looking for work, we feel at home here in the family." Others speak — basing their ideas on the myth, the desire to protect women — about how European women are almost forced to function as sexual objects and prostitutes and there is, of course, some truth in these allegations. They just forget to explain that industrial and capitalist developments in the West have put women in this situation. Nor do they draw attention to the fact that one form of repression can never justify another. However, many Saudi women have a more discriminating outlook on the situation. They believe that it is impossible to transfer the experiences of Western women to Saudi Arabia because of such different circumstances in the two cultures. The liberal Western notion of individual freedom does not seem to stand up to direct comparison. One woman says: "I have read a lot about women's liberation in the West and I do not necessarily think that it is a good thing, but it depends on what one means by liberation. There is both personal and intellectual liberation. We can express our opinions freely, and we can think freely. I can act within the limits set for me, but I am not allowed to do anything that could harm my family or the society in which I live. One female university lecturer says: "Women in Saudi Arabia have their own form for freedom and independence. In the West, independence is judged from a very materialistic point of view. They think in terms of economic independence. Saudi women do so, too, but they attach greater importance to intellectual independence."

That women attach such importance to intellectual independence must, of course, be seen in the light of family ties and religious tradition. some women do, however, think in a similar way to their European sisters: that economic independence is a necessary ingredient of real equality. Many wish to work in order to obtain security in the case of their getting divorced.

The most burning subject of debate among Saudi Arabian women today is the question of their entering the job market. In 1965 there were no native women teachers, but by 1980 there were 11,847. It is estimated that some 25,000 women work for the state, mainly in the health sector, administration and the welfare sector. In January 1980, the first women's bank was opened in Riyadh, quickly followed by a branch in Jeddah. Now, some 150 women are employed by the banks, and many of them have university degrees in economics and public administration. Seen from a financial point of view these banks are of minor importance, but their psychological effect has been colossal: women researchers write about them, and the banks themselves hold seminars and discussion meetings for women. The female bank directors enjoy special status in Saudi Arabia. They are interviewed by radio and TV etc., and they have contributed to the debate on the position of women in the job market. The religious leaders are nervous. Sheik Abdel Aziz bin Baz, leader of the religious council, published a decree in 1979, recommending that the number of working women be reduced, because their access to the job market would result in contact with men and the ruination of "womens' natural femininity." Until now the women have been able to hold out. The arguments of the religious leaders are also weakened by the presence of 2 million foreign workers in the country. It is seen as a threat which can only be combatted by allowing women better access to the job market.

Many qualified women cannot find work. Either there is none, or their husbands are against it. This causes problems for them in urban society. They are getting bored to death in the family flat or terraced house. Many do not get up until later on in the day and then kill time by chatting with their girl friends on the telephone.

Their problems also have to be seen the light of another phenomenon: almost no facilities exist for women without work. Because of the grudging attitude of the religious leaders, there are almost no public places where women can get together. Permission has been applied for to start women's clubs, but this has been refused as yet. The authorities refer to tradition and point out that women's clubs might one day lead to them wanting to have activities involving men.

By way of consolation, some womens charities do exist, where women from well to do families give their less fortunate sisters social and cultural support in best Victorian style. They open libraries, collect money for the needy, teach them how to sew, to cook and to use a typewriter.

The above-mentioned women belong mainly to the Saudi middle-class, and most of them have grown up in the cities. The situation is somewhat different for bedouin women. These days many are being torn away from their traditional living patterns and thrown into circumstances that is totally strange to them. Because bedouin women worked in the traditional society, this gave them some rights and fulfilled their social needs through contact with other women in the camp. With urbanization they totally lose their social identities. Among urbanized bedouins, it is characteristically enough the women who long for the desert. They miss the sense of togetherness and the presence of something worthwhile to do.

There is no going back in Saudi Arabia. The centralist, technological model has been chosen, which will, of course, lead to women being expected to play a more important role in society. The religious leaders talk of the dangers of the destruction of family life, and come up with frightening examples from the decadent West. They forget to say that the main reason for the split in the traditional family in the West has its roots in the development of a society which thwarts the structure and cohesion of the extended family. It is incredulous, that they do not see a danger to the Islamic way of life in the Western-inspired development model Saudi Arabia has chosen to follow.

Hussein Shehadeh is the author of "Saudi Arabia, Islam and Development." He is a freelance journalist and photographer who specializes in the Arab/Islam world.

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Cross words

ACROSS

1 Missing G.I.
5 Type of curriculum
9 Played a trumpet
13 July treat
14 Ecclesiastical decree
15 Paul Revere did this
16 Stands firm
19 Culbertson of bridge fame
20 Item in a log
21 Willingham's "—— a Man"
22 Blast or carp beginner
23 Type of meal
24 Is in suspense
32 Battery terminal
33 Rumpus ——
34 La-la preceder
35 Costa ——
36 No longer fresh
38 Lath
39 Mrs., in Madrid
40 Olympia's country
41 Author of "The Cloister and the Hearth"
42 Waits
46 Consumed
47 "Mary —— little . . ."
48 Alan Ladd role
51 Official proclamation
53 "The —— Curiosity Shop"
56 Keeps silent
59 Or ——
60 Devoutness
61 Writer Sarah —— Jewett
62 Eros
63 Sight from Taormina
64 "—— Abby"

DOWN

1 Head or tooth problem
2 Merino product
3 Sole
4 Guided
5 Swiss division
6 Lalapalooza
7 Optimistic
8 Sch. subject
9 Charlotte, Emily or Anne
10 —— and clear
11 Ferber or Best
12 Marries
14 Modern abode
17 Judgment
18 Update military equipment
22 Old Norse literature
23 A woodwind
24 Strident
25 Dream: Comb. form
26 Union chapter
27 Delete
28 Old —— (the sun)
29 North African range
30 Plumbing or welding
31 Detests
36 Type of gin
37 Bolivian export
38 Antitoxins
40 Kefauver
41 Calf-roping event
43 Anger
44 Daisy variety
45 Harvard's —— Pudding Club
48 Mets' home
49 Sort of oak
50 "The Sun —— Rises"
51 Module or monad
52 Bewail, Irish style
53 Monster
54 Type of moth
55 Buck or doe
57 Disclose, to Shelley
58 Wynken pal

SOLUTION

AWOL CORE BLEW
CONE CANON RODE
HOLDSONESGROUND
ELY ENTRY ENDAS
ENDO OAT
HOLDSONESBREATH
ANODE ROOM TRA
RICA STALE SLAT
BRA ELIS READE
HOLDSONESHORSES
ATE HADA
SHANE UKASE OLD
HOLDSONESTONGUE
ELSE PIETY ORNE
AMOR ETNA DEAR

Chess

White mates in three moves at latest, against any defence (by K. A. L. Kubbel, Shakhmatny, 1937).

Popular one-day chess, where every game is over within an hour, has a boost this weekend with two tournaments available. The Berkshire quickplay championships, with £100 for the winner and a special event for weaker players, starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Earley Community Centre, Reading: Alan Cox (0734 883428) can supply more details.

Highbury's one-day on Sunday is the final event in the 0184-85 City Grand Prix and is open to all comers. Quick chess is the best introduction if you are new to competitive play. For details, phone George Goodwin at 446 6519.

Chess solution

1 R—B2. If 1 . . . KtP×R; 2 R—K4 and 3 P—Kt4. If 1 . . . QP×R; 2 R—R4 and 3 P—Q4. If 1 . . . K×R; 2 Kt—Kt5 ch, K×P; 3 Kt(8)—B7.

BRIDGE by Terence Reese

North: ♠ K 6 5 ♡ K 10 9 8 7 ♢ J 8 ♣ 5 3 2

West: ♠ J 7 2 ♡ 6 4 2 ♢ K 3 ♣ 10 9 8 7 4

East: ♠ 9 8 4 3 ♡ A J 5 ♢ Q 10 7 6 2 ♣ K

South: ♠ A Q 10 ♡ Q 3 ♢ A 9 5 4 ♣ A Q J 6

Dealer South N-S vulnerable

A par contest, played with a set of prepared hands, takes a long time to organise and has gone out of fashion in these hurried times. The American card manufacturers kept them going for 37 years, but nowadays no one has the energy, it seems.

The deal above was played in an inter-collegiate event in 1967. I must say, I can't picture many undergraduates (or graduates) doing the right thing.

South opens One Diamond and plays the "directed" contract of 3NT. The 10 of clubs is covered by the king and ace. South leads the queen of hearts, and of course East must hold off. The next heart runs to the jack, and if the defenders are careful South will not be able to develop a ninth trick.

Rather simple, are you thinking? If so, you have missed the point. South must begin, not with the queen of hearts, but with a low heart to the 10. East wins with the jack and its make no difference whether he leads a spade or a diamond. Either way, South will get the hearts going by overtaking the queen with the king. At most, he will lose two diamonds and two hearts.

One of these days, include this deal in a club pairs event. My forecast is that not more than one player in 10 will make the right play.

JUNIOR X-WORD

ACROSS.—1, Stock. 5, Seen. 6, Tyrant. 7, Aria. 9, Ruin. 11, Images. 12, Coax. 13, Adorn.

DOWN.—2, Toys. 3, Chamonix. 4, Sneak. 5, Standard. 8, Truck. 10, Wear.

CLUES ACROSS.—1, Goods held for sale. 5, Observed. 6, Cruel ruler. 7, Operatic song. 9, Wreck. 11, Idols. 12, Gently persuade. 13, Decorate.

CLUES DOWN.—2, Children's playthings. 3, Resort in the French Alps. 4, Tell tales. 5, Upright support. 8, Goods vehicle. 10, Be dressed in.

R	A	N	
S	O	N	W
R	E	S	

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the large letter, and there must be at least one 10 letter word in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names. TODAY'S TARGET: 24 words, good: 30 words, very good: 35 words, excellent.

TARGET
The EXPRESS Word Game

solution

Intimate Starcasts

ARIES — March 21 — April 20

Mercury's favourable influence will help you to maintain harmony with your partner. You will be able to make progress with your studies only if you really concentrate. You should not try to mend anything electrical unless you really know what you are doing. You should make sure you know what is your bank balance before signing any more cheques. You will get on better with Virgo and Scorpio than with Libra and Capricorn.

TAURUS — April 21 — May 20

There are no problems this week that cannot be solved with application and perseverance. You should hesitate to think before making any great changes. There will be some ups and downs where your mood is concerned, but you should do your utmost to control your temper. Moderate your impulsiveness and respect other people's feelings. You will get on better with Virgo and Libra than with Leo and Scorpio.

GEMINI — May 21 — June 20

You should make sure you do not break a promise and that you meet your commitments. If you gloat over someone else's misfortunes the same may happen to you some day. You will be able to avail yourself of a good opportunity only if you act promptly. Make yourself more approachable and do not act the fool. You will get on better with Leo and Libra than with Virgo and Pisces.

CANCER — June 21 — July 21

Your personal life will take a turn for the better. You will be able to see something that has been staring you in the face without your realising it. You will be getting on better with your friends and a neighbour will be much more amenable. A problem you have been putting to one side must be dealt with sooner rather than later. You will get on better with Virgo and Scorpio than with Libra and Capricorn.

LEO — July 22 — August 21

You will have plenty to be pleased about but you must not become complacent. You should do your best to reduce tension and to avoid stress. You should be nice to your friends, but you should not allow them or anyone to distract you from what has to be done. All kinds of intrigue or subterfuge should be eschewed. With determination and peseverance as well as resilience you will be able to tackle the problems that confront you. You will get on better with Libra and Sagittarius than with Scorpio and Taurus.

VIRGO — August 22 — September 21

You should watch those small expenditures without being mean. Recriminations are to be avoided nor should you try to settle an old score. The situation is a little confused and you will have to avail yourself of every scrap of information in order to place together a coherent and more or less sensible picture. This week it would be best to consolidate rather than striking out anew. You will get on better with Scorpio and Capricorn than with Sagittarius and Pisces.

LIBRA — September 22 — October 22

There will be greater harmony within your family. You should not ask your partner for more than he/she is willing and able to give freely. You will be able to overcome a problem that has been annoying you. A letter that you have been meaning to write should now be undertaken nor should you postpone any longer dealing with a tax problem. A stranger should not be let into a secret. You will get on better with Sagittarius and Taurus than with Capricorn and Aries.

SCORPIO — October 23 — November 21

You will be able to spend some unforgettable moments with the person you love most. You may find it a little difficult to understand what is troubling a friend of yours but you should nonetheless try to be sympathetic. You will be able to make good use of your skill and experience. Try to eat a healthy diet, one that is not short of vitamins and fibre. You will get on better with Capricorn and Aries than with Taurus and Leo.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22 — December 20

You will be able to learn a good lesson from experience — you will not make the same mistake again. Try to keep your capital intact and to spend a little less than you earn. Do not allow some small upset to disturb or discourage you. You should not take everything you are told quite at its face value. Show a friend your sympathy and understanding. You will get on better with Aries and Taurus than with Pisces and Virgo.

CAPRICORN — December 21 — January 19

You should pay more attention to your appearance and your hygiene. The prospects are good and you will find it easier to keep a balance between income and expenditure. You should do all you can to avoid tension in your relations with your partner. Your will have an opportunity to consolidate some gains made recently but you must act quickly. You will get on better with Pisces and Taurus than with Aries and Libra.

AQUARIUS — January 20 — February 18

You should listen more carefully to what others are saying and you should reserve your judgment. A family problem should be tackled without delay, the longer you hesitate the worse it will become. A friend of yours will need a little moral support and you will be able to give it to him. You should do all you can to make a child happy. You will get on better with Aries and Virgo than with Taurus and Leo.

PISCES — February 19 — March 20

You should try to keep your feet firmly on the ground. You may find it a little difficult to meet your commitments, but that is no excuse for not doing so. If you show affection to your partner and to your children you will be amply rewarded. You should not allow petty expenses to mount up and become burdensome. You will get on better with Taurus and Leo than with Virgo and Sagittarius.

PREVIEW FOR THOSE BORN THIS WEEK

You will be able to find more time to pursue your cultural interests as well as to read. It will be easier for you to see eye to eye with your colleagues and your neighbours. You will not find it quite so difficult to make ends meet, but only if you continue to be frugal. You will tend to be a little more forgetful, so try not to rely entirely on your memory. Commonsense will prevail.

Your TV guide

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 2
Programme from 31 May— 6 June

The comedy series HOME TO ROOST. Thursday at 8:30

Saturday

* 8:30 DUTY FREE, "Winter Break": At the end of the last series, the Pearces and the Cochrans flew home after their vacation. Now Amy has found herself a job, but poor David is still unemployed and depressed. He decides he needs a break to get away from it all!

* 9:00 World Football Cup, ITALY - BULGARY

* 9:45 NEWS IN ENLIGH

* 11:00 FEATURE FILM, "Territorial Men": Sara is a young lady who moved from Philadelphia to teach in Colorado. One of her students (Harry Thomson) is an orphan who is in trouble due to his psychological state. Sara devotes herself to help him out of trouble.

Sunday

* 8:30 ME AND MY GIRL, "You Take the High Road"

* 9:00 WORLD CUP, BRAZIL-SPAIN

* 11:00 THE MASTER

Monday

* 8:30 ALLO, ALLO, the last episode

* 9:00 WORLD CUP, USSR - HUNGARY

* 11:00 THE BLACK TOWER: Dalgliesh continues his discreet enquiries into the tragic events at the Grange and discovers a family quarrel exists between Willed and his sister Millicent. Maggie decides to confront husband Eric and nurse Helen Rainer over their affair. And the Black Tower's macabre past comes frighteningly to life again.

Tuesday

* 8:30 AMANDA

* 9:00 World Football Cup, ALGERIA - N. IRELAND

* 11:00 THE EQUALIZER, "Out of Past"

Wednesday

* 8:30 RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE WITH ISLAMIC THINKERS

* 9:00 World Football Cup, PARAGUAY - IRAQ

* 11:00 THE BRIEF, "Landscape": In Paris, Luke, Annika and Passerman meet Leah's father, Claudio Goldini (Bernard Archard), and his young wife Zip (Mel Martin). Goldini confirms that Leah was very wealthy, but cannot or will not, throw any light on the reasons for her death. Later, Zip tells them about a "business" that Leah had in Frankfurt in 1979.

Sam learns that David had guessed about his parents' break-up when she takes him to see a missile base. They are befriended by American Captain Bobby Macklin (David Baxt), who later makes a date with Sam.

Luke and Annika row about her familiarity with Passerman. Back in England, Luke is accused of neglecting his work. That evening, Luke attends a party thrown by his friends Timmy and Jo. Sam is invited, but does not show up.

Luke discovers that there was a terrorist attack in Frankfurt in 1979 and believes it may have some connection with Leah. He rings Annika, but is answered by Passerman.

Thursday

* 8:30 HOME TO ROOST, "Dating Henry": There is wine in the cooler and candlesticks on the table, and Father has shaved and changed. Who is coming to dinner? Mathew attempts to find out.

* 9:00 World Football Cup, ITALY - ARGENTINE

* 11:00 FEATURE FILM, "Walk The Proud Land," starring: Andie Murphy, Anne Bancroft and Oat Crowley. The story of an Indian agent (white) who wins the Apache's friendship and loses the white man's trust in the process.

Friday

* 8:30 THE SCIENTIFIC LEGACY OF THE ARABS, "Mathematics": Mathematics are something more than the most complicated subjects in school. They are at the base of all the other sciences and they are the exactness realm.

In this chapter we show mathematically that Arithmetic, Geometry, Trigonometry Algebra, etc., are more interesting and amusing than what many people think, and besides we show the essential contributions of the most powerful Arab minds to the development of this indispensable science.

* 9:00 World Football Cup, ALGERIA - BRAZIL

* 11:00 HUNTER, "Snow Queen," part 2.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

Programme Highlights for week beginning Saturday 31May, 1986

THE AMERICAN CONNECTION — THE CIA: Derek Blizard visits Washington for a close look at the controversial role of the CIA in the world today. Is it as some argue a government within a government? And what distinguishes its aims and operations from those of its principal antagonist, the Soviet KGB? For many the CIA is a bulwark in defence of democracy, for others a sinister initiator of covert action.

A PERFECT SPY: The John le Carré reads from his novel 'A Perfect Spy' which has been abridged in 15 parts of Donald Bancroft. Magnus Pym, a highly-placed diplomat at the British embassy in Vienna, has disappeared. When anyone in Pym's position disappears, it has to be assumed that he is a spy.

BLACK BRITONS, WHITE BRITIONS: BBC Community Affairs Correspondent John Clare looks at racial tensions in Britain today. He examines relationship not only between black and white but between black and Asians and Asians and white communities. What has gone wrong? Is it not possible for Britons of whatever race to live cheerfully together?

BERGEN FESTIVAL: A relay from the final concert of the Bergen Festival will include the traditional performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto. The talented Swedish Pianist Roland Pontinen is soloist with the distinguished Finnish conductor Paavo Berglund directing the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

WORLD CUP: Sportworld will cover the World Cup on every day of play. There will be nine live second half commentaries on first round matches and further detailed coverage of later rounds. There will be full live commentary of the World Cup final including any extra time played.

Saturday 31 May

* 24:00 World Cup

Sunday 1 June

* 10:45 World Cup
* 16:30 World Cup
* 22:15 Black Britons, White Britons

Monday 2 June

* 00:15 Bergen Festival
* 08:30 A Perfect Spy
* 09:30 The American Connection
* 13:00 The American Connection
* 18:15 The American Connection

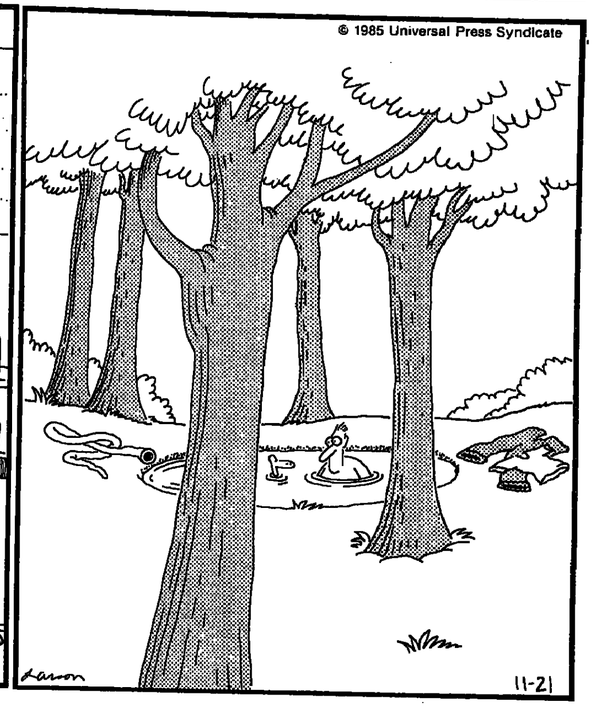
Friday 6 June

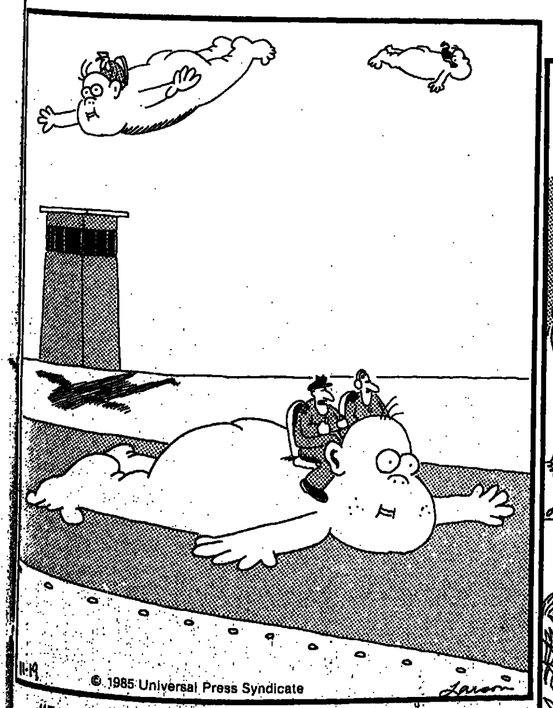
* 17:45 A perfect Spy
* 18:15 Black Britons, White Britons

Top records

In US	In Britain
1. Greatest Love Of All — Whitney Houston	1. On My Own — Patti Labelle and Michael Mcdonald
2. Live To Tell — Madonna	2. Lessons In Love — Level 42
3. On My Own — Patti Labelle + Michael Mcdonald	3. The Chicken Song — Spitting Image
4. If You Leave — Orchestra Manoeuvres In The Dark	4. Live To Tell — Madonna
5. I can't Wait — Nu Shooz	5. Rock Me Amadeus — Falco
6. All I Need Is A Miracle — Mike + The Mechanics	6. Sledgehammer — Peter Gabriel
7. Something About You — Level 42	7. What Have You Done For Me Lately — Janet Jackson
8. Is It Love — Mr Mister	8. I heard It Through The Grapevine — Marvin Gaye
9. Be Good To Yourself — Journey	9. I Can't Wait Another Minute — Five Star
10 What Have You Done For Me Lately — Janet Jackson	10. The Greatest Love Of All — Whitney Houston

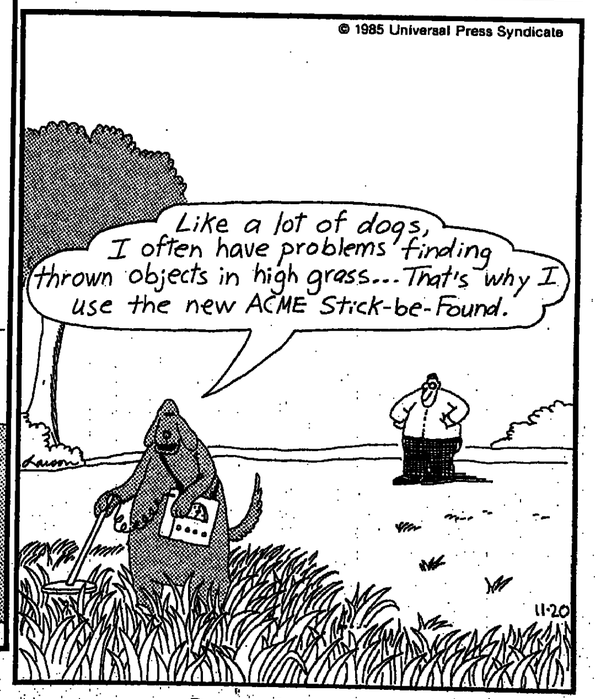
"Whoa! This just looks like regular spaghetti! ... Where's my Earthworms Alfredo?"





"Fuel ... check. Lights ... check. Oil pressure ... check. We've got clearance. OK, Jack—let's get this baby off the ground."

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



Dog endorsements